

WALKBIKE SPRINGFIELD MEETING NOTES SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Roosevelt Ave. Project Update

The focus now is to prepare for the community forum on October 26 at Springfield Prep at 2071 Roosevelt. Save the Date notices will be going out in the next week. At the event we will share the results of the survey, of the bike audit, and the three walk audits, and have large maps of the roadway for participants to mark needed changes. The 3 walk audits have covered Wilbraham to Gaucher; East St. to Cottage; Blunt Park Rd from Independence House to the Senior Center. We will still try to do a walk from Memorial to Central HS.

2023 International Day of Remembrance - Nov. 19

Unfortunately, there are now five pedestrian fatalities to honor, a total of 14 fatalities since the DOR in 2022. We will continue efforts to reach family, and definitely the Library staff. The event will again be on the Central Library steps at 1 PM. We agreed to not reach out to the surrounding communities. To get more attention to the lack of progress of the State St. crossing we will try to accumulate cones to narrow the street during the event.

Complete Streets Council Letter to Mayor

A follow-up letter to one sent to the Mayor in June about establishing the Complete Streets Council that was authorized in the 2016 Complete Streets policy was sent to the Mayor and copied to Councilors and the press. We received the same form letter response, indicating the issue has been passed on the DPW Director Cignoli. We will ask Councilor Curran to hold a Maintenance & Development Committee meeting about the overdue formation of the Complete Streets Council.

Complete Streets Prioritization Submittal and Oct. 2 Application

Springfield is now eligible to apply again for MassDOT Complete Streets implementation funding, but had never submitted a new Prioritization Plan. We reviewed a list of proposed projects and are suggesting additions: Chestnut/Springfield St. bike lane; pedestrian crossings on St. James in McKnight; pedestrian crossing to Van Horn Park; pedestrian crossing from Union St. across Dwight St. Hopefully MassDOT will approve in time so an Implementation grant proposal can be submitted by Oct. 2, 2023. WBS is offering assistance with the grant.

WalkMassachusetts Walk Audit Academy

WBS is participating with WalkMassachusetts in this project. Our Roosevelt Ave. audits are a part. Additional audits are being planned for St. James in McKnight; Sumner Ave; in Holyoke; and North End. There is a Zoom check-in meeting on October 3 and an in-person sharing session will be in November.

ValleyBike Advocacy Letter

Holyoke Bike/Ped Committee is asking others to send letters to state legislators requesting funds so that ValleyBike share can be resurrected. WBS will send letters.

“Give 4 Feet” Signs

We are following up with MassDOT to determine if Springfield can get additional signs because we would like signs installed near all schools, shopping centers, etc.

Next Meeting: October 12, 2023

Roosevelt Ave. Forum: October 26, 2023