

WalkBike Springfield September 8, 2022 Meeting Notes (plus notes on follow-up activities)

I. Springfield Safety Plan and Safe Streets for All grant application

MassDOT recently hired Kittelson & Associates to develop a "[Safety Action Plan](#)" for Springfield in order to apply for implementation funding from the new federal grant program, Safe Streets for All. We discussed both getting support letters for the grant application being submitted by September 15. *{Support letters were obtained from WBS and 4 neighborhood councils.}* We also discussed the limitations of the Plan. *{WBS and residents were not involved in the development of the Plan because of the one-month turn around, but City Engineer Andy Krar wants our input towards expanding/refining the Plan.}*

The following are some of our comments discussed at the meeting:

- Expand the commitment behind Goal 2b: "Collaborate with community groups....."
- Mention the efforts to date by WBS, Wayfinders, neighborhood councils, etc.
- Mention the Bicycle Network Plan and the points of safety concern
- Add more issue related to cyclist safety and measures to improve cyclist safety
- Emphasize and promote "Corridor-long" projects, not just intersections'; include Corridor projects such as Roosevelt and St. James
- Implement Complete Streets Plan recommendations, including establishing a "Complete Streets Council" or "Vision Zero" Committee
- Expand the role of speed detection signs
- Include prime candidates for road diets
- Recommend roundabouts for Allen/Island Pond Rd and Dorset/Sumner for Improving both the intersection safety and Highland Railtrail user safety
- More explanation of the high crash rate of State Street and additional safety recommendations
- Recommend working with MassBike and WalkBoston

II. Environment America Drive Less, Live More program

Mackenzie Brown introduced herself and how she is organizing a walk audit event in Springfield for late October. Suggested sites: Chestnut/Dwight by 291; State Street, Bay Street by Central HS. To assist Mackenzie, email Mackenzie.brown@publicinterestnetwork.org

III. Parking in Bicycle Lanes

Officer Kwatowski reported that Springfield police are instructed to enforce

MGL Chap 90 (89-4A) Crossing over marked lanes designated for bicyclist. \$105.00.

(89-4D) Travelling in the bicycle lane or standing, parking. \$55.00.

We discussed the need to continue to advocate for signage on Bike Lane signs that parking is not allowed, and to work on bike lane modifications where there are conflicts with handicap spaces.

All are encouraged to call 787-6300 or the watch captain at 787-6325 to report when cars are parked on tree belts, or blocking the sidewalk – indicating that the cars are "*impeding pedestrian movements.*"

IV. [Reconnecting Communities Federal Grant](#)

This is another grant as part of the new federal infrastructure law. Due date is October 13. We discussed possible projects:

1. Reconstructing the pedestrian bridge over 291 (*couldn't find the location of the initial bridge*), but suggest connecting Halsey St. to Nursery St. so there is ready access to the expanded Armory St. Park and the new Bike/Skate park at the Boys & Girls Club on Carew St. This would provide a safe way for pedestrians and cyclists to avoid the Liberty/Armory "circle".
2. Another suggestion, was for initial evaluation of using the unused pipe that is under the Riverwalk by the Mill River conduit as a way to get under the RR and connect the Riverwalk to routes to Forest Park and Agawam.

V. [Announcements](#)

- [WalkMassachusetts Network](#) session about a new WalkBoston resource, "Report a Problem": Wed. Sept. 21 at 1 PM, register at [LINK](#)
- Talk the Walk session with Chuck Marohn of Strong Towns and discussion of his book: Confessions of a Recovering Engineer – [Thurs, Sept. 29 at Noon](#)
- [AmericaWalks](#) "Dangerous by Design" webinar – [Thurs. Sept. 22 at 2 PM](#)
- [Beat the Baystate](#) registration now open – join the Springfield team!
- SAVE THE DATE: the annual Day of Remembrance, Sunday, November 20.

**NEXT WALKBIKE SPRINGFIELD MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022,
IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL**