

**WALKBIKE SPRINGFIELD**  
**March 10, 2020 6 PM – Meeting Notes**  
**Granny's Baking Table 309 Bridge Street**

**Complete Streets Demo.** Becky Basch of PVPC reported that the McKnight Neighbor Council approved having the Complete Streets Demonstration in conjunction with their block party at Thompson Triangle on June 13, 2020. We agreed that we'd want space for Valley Bikes and three tables (which we will provide.) Her workplan is *attached*.

**Complete Streets Prioritization Update.** Becky also presented the draft plan for PVPC providing technical assistance related to updating Springfield's Complete Streets Prioritization Plan (*attached*.) We discussed how WBS could help with contracts related to scheduling community engagement. We suggested getting input at existing events and at the Jordan Senior Center. We discussed that this Plan should not only focus on updating our bicycle network, but should also prioritize walkability to municipal facilities (schools, libraries, parks, senior centers).

WBS will provide our existing GIS map to PVPC, and provide the map that WBS colored as to how rideable is a road/route. Hector will confirm projects completed.

**Complete Streets MassDOT May 1, 2020 Submission.** Springfield will be resubmitting the projects that have not previously been funded by the May 1 deadline. We regretted that Water & Sewer work was still continuing on Fort Pleasant so that it will not be included. A summary of the projects remaining from the original Prioritization Plan is *attached*.

**2020-2021 Street Repavings.** Hector provided an updated list of the arterials and residential streets that currently being considered for repaving during 2020-2021. DPW is still getting feedback from the utility companies. Meanwhile, a members has started reviewing for bicycle accommodation the longer list we received in January – Hector indicated that this would still be useful because these are all streets that if not done this year, are planned over the next five years.

The list raised questions about previous projects that have not been adequately completed (such as the end of Bicentennial, the misplaced sharrows on Worthington, etc.) How can we get the DPW inspectors to more effectively get contractors to do projects fully and correctly and get fixes??

We agreed that Cooley St. should be repaved but that it offers little opportunity for bicycle accommodation beyond sharrows. The short section of Columbus Ave by Forest Park was highly supported [*Update from Andy Krar: this will be a temporary fix and will include no bicycle accommodation – there is a joint Longmeadow/Springfield improvement project currently being planned for a few years from now*]

**McKnight crosswalk assessment project – St. James/Wellesley petition.** We agreed that a crosswalk at Wellesley Street on St. James (by a bus stop) and should be installed (other crosswalks are far away.) The McKnight Neighborhood Council is reaching out to the resident who is leading the effort to get the crosswalk to provide support. And, the Council is also setting up a committee to do a more comprehensive assessment of where other additional crosswalks are warranted.

#### **Updates/Next Steps**

- Signage change requests; speed limit sign change issue – letter about some of the issues that was sent to Commissioner Cignoli is *attached*. Speed limit changes may trigger speed studies

and actually result in the limit being increased. Need to learn more about this before pursuing our other requests.

- Street lighting budget - Bea Dewberry with WayFinders is working to arrange a meeting with the Mayor.
- Central Library State St. Crossing – working with Council Lederman and outreach to MassDOT District 2.
- 413 Wheel Park -- the Parks Department is submitting a proposal to design of a Park for Community Preservation funding. WBS will provide a support letter by this April 1, 2020 deadline. A petition of youth (and other) supporters is underway.

[https://www.change.org/p/city-of-springfield-build-a-non-motorized-wheels-park-in-springfield?recruiter=666450506&utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_medium=copylink&utm\\_campaign=share\\_petition&use\\_react=false](https://www.change.org/p/city-of-springfield-build-a-non-motorized-wheels-park-in-springfield?recruiter=666450506&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=share_petition&use_react=false)

See recent news coverage on this issues:

<https://www.masslive.com/news/2020/03/its-a-new-way-to-ride-springfields-413-bikelife-urban-cyclists-and-city-officials-in-vicious-cycle-over-stunts-vs-safety.html>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/massachusetts/articles/2020-03-09/urban-cyclists-city-officials-clash-over-safety-concerns>

Republican article *attached*.

- “Try 25” Yard Sign Project – Betsy will see if contacts in Indian Orchard will undertake reaching out to home-owners and the installation.

#### **Other Issues/Activities**

- WalkBoston Annual Meeting - **March 25** - POSTPONED
- Safe Routes to School Walk Bike Roll to School – **May 6**
- Bike Week: **May 9 – 17, 2020** - now part of Bike Month (all of May)  
<http://www.baystatebikeweek.org/>

#### **NEXT Meetings:**

**(although we may reconsider so that not always the first Tuesday which conflicts with some neighborhood association meetings.)**

**April 7, 2020 – pending Covid-19 situation**

**May 5, 2020**

**June 2, 2020**