

WalkBike Springfield Meeting Notes March 11, 2021

1. **McKnight Trail Update.** It was reported Springfield engineering has been provided with a list of issues related to the trail access points. The end of the trail at Rebecca Johnson school definitely needs to be addressed through the Save Routes to School project. A public hearing about the design is expected to be held in spring 2021.

2. **Galen Mook, executive director of MassBike.**

Galen discussed how MassBike's work depends on groups such as ours, and about a number of the trail initiatives in our overall area. He suggested meeting with Kristen Sykes who is the current Pioneer Valley chapter head and with others in the area.

He discussed three main priorities of [state legislation](#)

- An Act to Reduce Traffic Fatalities
- An Act Relative to Electric Bicycles
- An Act Relative to Commuter Transit Benefits

Go to the MassBike site for additional details of each of these bills.

Also of interest to Springfield related to the McKnight/Highland Rail Trail:

- An Act Authorizing municipalities to expend certain funds (Community Preservation Fund) for the acquisition of land to be used for rail trails.

Because sponsors of much of this legislation are in Senate and House leadership, there is some optimism for passage. But all are encouraged to ask our legislators to become co-sponsors or at least to support.

Galen also described his efforts to overall strengthen the MassBike non-profit, including recruiting more diverse, including geographic, types of riders, demographics, etc. new board members. If willing to help this key organization, go to <https://www.massbike.org/volunteer>.

MassBike will still support the "Light Brigade" activity – handing our lights at given times in locations where there might be a number of cyclists. Galen will be delivering lights to Makelt Springfield.

3. **St. James Ave./St. James Blvd./Carew Street project.**

The virtual hearing is now live at <https://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings>. The "hearing" was not particularly informative. WalkBike Springfield will comment that there should have been an interactive virtual hearing. Other issues include the project boundaries and lack of reducing driveway entrances on the east side of St. James Ave, and actually where will the shared use path be implemented. Comments are due on March 17.

4. **Other**

Wheel Park

The City will be issuing the RFP for the contractor for the Wheel Park design within the week – it is out now and bids are due March 30

https://www.springfield-ma.gov/finance/procurement/bid_detail.php?bid=202121-133

State Street Crossing

WBS has been in contact with three UMass engineering students. One is doing an internship at MassDOT District 2 and has given Betsy a contact to reach out to.

2021 Repaving Projects

Comments from the WBS February meeting, as well as additional analysis by Jim Scheffler has been passed on the Andy Krar at DPW Engineering, who has indicated that we can review the designs.

WalkBoston Annual Meeting

Betsy Johnson has recently been selected as the president of WalkBoston. The 2021 Annual Meeting will be virtual and free on March 24, 2021 from 5-6 PM. To register go to

<https://walkboston.org/2021/01/29/save-the-date-annual-celebration-3-24-5pm/>

The program will feature a panel of

Tracy Corley, who was with MassINC for the Springfield Union Station audit, and now with CLF; Mike McGinn with American Walks; Jodie Medeiros of Walk San Francisco, and Alex Train on the City of Chelsea.

NEXT WALKBIKE SPRINGFIELD MEETING:

Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 6 PM