

WalkBike Springfield February 16, 2023 Meeting Notes

I. [Safe Streets for All \\$15 Million Award to Springfield](#)

Last summer, WBS reviewed and [commented on the Safety Plan](#) that was developed with no community input. We learned that MassDOT hired a consultant to fast-track getting this [Plan](#) so Springfield could apply for implementation funds from the new federal Infrastructure law's [Safe Streets for All program](#). WBS helped get a number of neighborhood councils to provide support letters. Success! Springfield was one of only 37 communities nationwide to receive implementation funds. Projects such as [improved pedestrian crossings, road narrowing](#), other speed reduction measures will be implemented at 15 intersections (see pages 35-36 in the [Plan](#)) and along 10 corridors (see pages 41-42 in the [Plan](#).)

The City is currently in the contract phase and will begin developing a project schedule this spring/summer. ***WBS would like to organize walk audits of the project areas to proactively suggest the projects rather than just react to what DPW proposes.***

The need for community input has highlighted the need for Springfield to actually establish the Complete Streets Council as approved by the City Council and Mayor in 2016. As passed in the [Complete Streets Policy](#), the Council would be “comprised of city staff, elected officials, and residents.” Deb reported meeting City Council president, Jesse Lederman, who is going to see what he can do to get this committee established.

2. [Roosevelt Ave. Project](#)

WBS is beginning the implementation of this outreach project of the stakeholders of the 3.3 mile stretch of Roosevelt Ave. from Alden to East Streets with a presentation to the East Springfield Neighborhood Association. [The March 9 WBS meeting will be a preview of the presentation.] Craig will follow-up with scheduling with the Bay Area Neighborhood Council, which meets the first Tuesday of the month.

We will develop a Survey to both distribute as well as post online. We discussed possible questions:

- Do you walk or bicycle on Roosevelt? Why or why not?
- How far are you travelling to your Roosevelt Ave. destination?
- If there was a wide sidewalk (shared use path) would you walk or bicycle what sections of Roosevelt (or to what destinations)?
- Where should there be crosswalks? Pedestrian crossing signals?
- Do you feel the traffic is going too fast?
- Where should there be center turning lanes?

3. **Bike Park - Gurdon Bill Park**

Because the Boys & Girls Club backed out of letting the City build the Bike Park on the land adjacent to their center on Carew St., the City lost out on receiving the state funding from the Land and Water Conservation program. The consultant, Pilar Design, investigated the feasibility of the Bike Park at Gurdon Bill Park at the intersection of Liberty, Genesee, and Warwick Streets. The City has resubmitted for the construction

funds for this location. Approval was given from the Lower Liberty Heights Neighborhood Council.

The plan also includes restoring the arboretum that is much of the Park, as well as a children's play area. Many at the meeting expressed concern that the bike/skate facility was way too small, that pump park features should be added, and that there should not be the non-bike park facilities. The hope was that this would be a destination facility and not just a "neighborhood" park. We will reach out to the Parks Department about these concerns.

4. Updates

-- **"X" Project** – DPW is going ahead with the finalization of construction drawings while the Environmental Justice study is underway, assuming that it will not result in changes. This preserves that the project's funding will still be forthcoming in 2024. Jim will review the plans so we can better understand the changes since the 25% design presentation years ago.

-- **Bowles Elementary School Safe Routes to School** - Springfield is being awarded a grant to improve the crossings to this East Springfield school – details forthcoming.

-- **McKnight Trail** – the City is no longer pursuing due to the high design costs and some neighborhood opposition. Funding for the project is no longer on the region's Transportation Improvement Plan.

-- **2023 Repaving Projects** – there is a posting on the [DPW Facebook Page](#) that shows the completed projects and those still to be done in spring 2023. The FY 2024 list is still to be developed. Call 311 and mention the need to repave Dwight Rd. from Tiffany St. to the Franconia Golf Course (Longmeadow border). Let [WBS](#) know of other roadways that need repaving and/or restriping.

5. Other

[RAD hiring](#)

[The Act to Reduce Traffic Fatalities](#) is going into effect on April 1. Provisions include that drivers when passing are to provide cyclists with four feet. Cyclists must use a white light in front and red in back, and more.

WalkBoston is rebranding as WalkMassachusetts. Plan to attend the [annual meeting](#) on April 4 in person in Cambridge or virtually

NEXT WalkBike Springfield MEETING: MARCH 9, 2023 @ 6 PM