

**WalkBike Springfield Meeting Notes**  
**Thursday, October 13, 2022**

I. West Street Project. A community open house for this unique project was held on September 27, 2022. The City received a MassWorks grant to design a “corridor” project (West St. from the end of North End bridge to Main St. including the bridge over 291). The session was for community input in advance of the consultant developing initial design. A major concern is the mid-block crossing from the housing development to the Pride Station and the difficult pedestrian and bicycle crossing on the bridge. A key suggestion is to develop/promote a route from Main St. through the new Brightwood tunnel over to West St.

II. Roosevelt Ave Proposal. WalkBike Springfield submitted a proposal for a \$1,500 grant to the AmericaWalks Community Change program. We propose to spend the funds on community outreach to the 5 high schools, 2 middle schools, elementary schools, 2 universities, 7 major employees, city agencies (Blunt Park, Senior Center), neighborhood councils and more to get folks to attend a forum to get ideas for making the 3.3-mile corridor of Roosevelt Ave from Island Pond to East St. actually safe for walking and biking. (Similar to the West St. Project open house). Such a corridor project was a major suggestion of the 2020 Prioritization outreach, but as a corridor project, it will go nowhere unless WBS is proactive. We hope to hear about the grant by Thanksgiving.

III. Environment America Walk Audit - October 20 @ 5:30 PM – from in front of the Central Library down Chestnut and return via Dwight. **Flyer attached.**

*[At this point in the meeting the Internet connect for the Zoom quit. Those at Granny’s briefly discussed the following issues, but otherwise all are encouraged to go to the links provided.]*

IV. Crash Report Jason has started to compile a monthly update of pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and serious crashes in Springfield. Data is obtained from the [MassDOT crash portals](#) and news articles. In 2022 there seems to be 10 fatal crashes in Springfield – 2 pedestrian and 1 cyclist. The bicyclist fatality was at Chestnut & Congress St. on Aug. 22; the pedestrian were on April 11 at the I-291 East Exit and June 22 at 1578 State St.

We discussed what kind of **International Day of Remembrance Event** on November 20 we should have – where?

V. Springfield Open Space Plan (2022-2027)

Every five years every community needs to provide an updated Open Space Plan to the State in order to be eligible for state and federal funding. Springfield is in the process of revising its past plan and accepting public comments. Pedestrian and bicycling projects such as the Bike/Skate Park, multiuse paths, improved access to parks, improved conditions in existing open spaces should be included. THE MORE PUBLIC COMMENTS THE BETTER! This is a [link](#) to the draft plan. Send comments to: [OSRP@springfieldcityhall.com](mailto:OSRP@springfieldcityhall.com)

Here are some key pages to review:

Page 17: Mention of Complete Streets Plan, but no update about Prioritization Plans & its related public participation

Page 45: Summary of Community Needs - no mention of Bike/Skate Park (I could only find mention on page 102)

Page 46 & Page 67: Riverwalk

Page 47 & Pg 65: Highland Rail & McKnight

Page 51: Summary of Seven-Year Action Plan

Page 54 & Pg 69: Outdated references to the Complete Streets Plan

Page 59: Chart of Actions

No mention of the need to improve pedestrian crossings to almost all parks

No mention of the need for bicycle racks at most parks

#### VI. [New MassDOT roadway database](#)

Check out this new map. Search any road/address and get information of who is responsible for the road, width, number of lanes, etc.

VII. [Beat the Baystate](#) – This is WalkBoston's annual fundraiser. For \$20 join the Springfield Team and record your miles walked during the month of November. The aim is for our team to log the 900 miles of the Massachusetts perimeter.

#### VIII. [Additional Updates & Issues](#)

The City Council committee meeting about the **State Street library crossing** that was scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 18 has been cancelled due to the City being sued by the family of the library staffperson who was killed about a year ago. Concern that this will further delay the project or lead to there being only a minimalist project rather than really resulting in a project that actually slows vehicles.

[WalkMassachusetts Network](#) zoom meeting: Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 1 PM

**NEXT WALKBIKE SPRINGFIELD MEETING: NOVEMBER 10, 2022 6 PM**