

WALKBIKE SPRINGFIELD
December 11, 2019 MEETING NOTES
Granny's Baking Table 309 Bridge Street

I. Roadway Projects, Street Repavings & Complete Streets

We need to follow up in the first of the year about getting the proposed list of 2020 repaving projects.

We need to follow-up the City requests technical assistance from PVPC to update the Complete Streets Plan and 5-year project list. Future MassDOT Complete Streets funding is pending in the [Transportation Bond Bill \(H4002\)](#)

We discussed the overall need to have more consideration given to where bicycle lanes are placed and designed related to whether there is existing parking allowed. We need to identify the areas where bicycle lanes have been installed and parking is still allowed.

We discussed identifying 10 current problems related to the bicycle lanes, speed limit and other signage that we could advocate around to DPW, Traffic Commission, the Mayor, and the City Council. The initial "brainstorm" list:

- 30 mph versus 25 mph on Alden Street by Springfield College
- Confusing 3-way stop signs at Lincoln and Magazine Streets
- Need for 25 mph on Dickinson from East Longmeadow to "X"
- West side of Chestnut Street bicycle lane is signed to allow parking
- Parking allowed on Oak St. (Front to Parker) on bicycle lane
- Consistent 25mph on Worthington Street through McKnight neighborhood
- 25mph on St. James Boulevard by Marshall Roy Park
- Installation of Chicopee "thickly settled" 25mph unless otherwise posted signs
- Bike Lane and Parking markings need to be replaced between Bridge & Worthington

We will create a survey to gather information on other places parking is still allowed/occurring along bicycle lanes and other places the posted speed limit signs are inconsistent or should be lowered to 25 mph.

II. Next Steps?

- Street lighting budget letter - WalkBike Springfield will join Wayfinders and GTC in signing a letter requesting the Mayor include funding in the 2020-21 budget for undertaking an audit of Springfield's street lighting. The City Council passed a resolution in October supporting this expenditure. This will enable the City to be better able to move forward with a system for upgrading to LED lights and enabling more consistent maintenance.
- "X" Project – meeting with neighbors? - Forest Park Civic Association met on Dec. 10 and did not discuss. Councilor Williams, chair of the Maintenance & Development

Committee said he would notify us as to when the Committee will be taking up the issue.
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- **will be contacted** to bring others on board.
- Walkability Prioritization Plan - still determining how to proceed and if it could be part of the PVPC Complete Streets update
- Central Library State St. Crossing - need to follow-up with Councilor Lederman
- 413 Wheel Park – Parks Dept is applying for a grant to proceed with a schematic design for the Boys & Girls site on Carew. We questioned why the site between Central and Morris Streets in South End shouldn't be considered. **We** will follow-up with Pat Sullivan's secretary to schedule a meeting, including some of the youth, to meet with Pat about the Park so that they might believe something is happening about a Park. Todd mentioned that the UMass professor Michael d'Pasquale whose classes do design projects in Springfield would talk to Scott Hanson about having the students do design for a pump style park like did/does exist behind Rocky's.
- Riverwalk Point Person - **To be followed up.**
- Safe Routes to School grant & School Committee Outreach - **Plan to work** with Bea Dewberry, but overall needs to be part of broadening our consistency to engage Springfield Public School parents.
- "Try 25" Yard Sign Project - on hold for the winter. But, Deborah brought up concerns about NextDoor and the need to have multiple folks request that Springfield residents be able to post Springfield-wide. If you are in NEXTDOOR please send out neighborhood boundaries map https://www.springfield-ma.gov/planning/fileadmin/Planning_files/Neighborhood_Boundaries_32x40.pdf, to nextdoor expressing your dissatisfaction that ALL of Springfield is not considered Nearby Neighborhoods. For example, Forest Park and East Forest Park are not considered nearby to Sixteen Acres, South End, Old Hill & Upper Hill even though they are next to you.
- Middle School Bicycling Education - follow-up with Miss Shaw, PE teacher at Zanetti School.
- 30mph Signs changed to 25mph – Cignoli **was emailed** and his reply was that majority of the 30mph zones stay 30, certain Thickly Settled may change and he assigned Hector to review them. In particular we want to get Alden St Springfield college consistent with the rest of Alden.
- Good Neighbor Handbook - Provide edits. Current draft attached. Deborah will follow-up with how to get our additions added.
- Logo - need to follow-up with Jim Scheffler.

- Highland Rail trail - It was reported that she is to go through the Parks Dept. rather than directly to Beta, the consultant doing the design. She will be following up. Betsy will follow up with Ryan Haley about the status of the schematic design of the east section.
 - Bus Company Education – Betsy/Deborah will invite Patrick Higgins to present his Safe Routes to School program to us at our January meeting so we can determine if it would be an appropriate presentation for the bus drivers
1. Redstone Trail Extensions – Sheila mentioned the Highland RR bed from EL to Spfld appears cleared (likely by the gas company) so we might explore it. Deborah mentioned the south end appears to have been cleared also, possible activity for extending it to CT.

III. Other Issues/Activities

- Rad 4th Birthday Party MAC N CHEESE COOKOFF Saturday Jan. 11th at 6 PM at The Bing

NEXT Meeting Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 4th Tuesday, @ Granny's Baking Table, 309 Bridge Street

Additional update from Patrick Higgins of MassDOT Safe Routes to School:

- DeBerry & Homer were selected for the signs & lines grant. We're in the process of securing the necessary administrative steps now
- DeBerry arrival dismissal report is nearly complete, it is going through an internal review process as we speak
- Over the next few months I'm trying to have some schools take the parent survey, if anyone on the team knows of a good school that would want to have us run a survey, please have them reach out to me

I also want to bring to your group's attention that we have some additional anti-speeding signs. I don't want ours to distract from the try 25 messaging, but if you all find you are running out of "try 25" signs, we can supplement with ours, each of our signs were designed by elementary school students.