

WalkBike Springfield Meeting Notes August 11, 2022

Most of the meeting was a recap of the information that Deb Huber and Betsy Johnson learned from meeting with City Engineer Andy Krar on August 10, 2022

I. WBS Bicycle Network

Discussion focused on the issue of cars parking in bicycle lanes. We learned that the state law prohibiting this parking was only passed in 2016.

Here's the link to the actual law:

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXIV/Chapter89/Section4D>

This is the link to the consequences:

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2016/Chapter456> :

Bill H.3072

SECTION 1: Chapter 89 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the following as Section 4D:

The operator of a motor vehicle shall not stand or park the vehicle upon any on-street path or lane designated by official signs or markings for the use of bicycles, or place the vehicle in such a manner as to interfere with the safety and passage of persons operating bicycles thereon.

The operator of a motor vehicle shall not stand or park the vehicle upon any lane designated by pavement markings for the shared use of motor vehicles and bicycles, or place the vehicle in such a manner as to interfere with the safety and passage of persons operating bicycles thereon.

SECTION 2: Section 5 of Chapter 89 of the General Laws is hereby amended by replacing both references to “sections one to four C” with “sections one to four D.

We discussed the need for additional signage that informs motorists of this law and reaching out to the police for enforcement. Other discussion focused on the placement of Sharrows.

II. Street Repaving & Repainting Status

These are opportunities for complete street treatments, including narrowing vehicle lanes, adding crosswalks, etc. There needs to be an overall assessment of the current bicycle lanes and which need to be repainted, could be widened or have a buffer added to narrow the vehicle lanes (to slow vehicles). We also discussed the need on major roads where parking is allowed to have the parking lanes striped so cars are not parking over a painted shoulder line. Please share with walkbikespringfield@gmail.com where line painting could be improved – for advocacy for 2023 painting.

III. Status of Neighborhood Council proposed ARPA-funded projects

- A pedestrian crossing across Dwight Street at the Railroad Station is being evaluated by a consultant (Armoury Quadrangle)
- Improved pedestrian crossing of Page Boulevard at Ardmore (East Springfield)
- Pedestrian improvement at Jefferson and Main (North End)

IV. Major Project Updates

Check out DPW's new [interactive Projects Map](#) for a more complete listing of projects!

- ["X" Project](#) – no additional public presentation planned. Need City Council to request.
- [McKnight Trail](#) – on hold until Mass Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) decides if bike path don't have to meet stringent wetland requirements. If lesser standard not allowed then City has to agree to more costly design expenditure while they are hearing strong neighbor opposition.
- Highland Trail (east section) – RFP out for the contractor to undertake the "25% design"
- [St. James Ave/Blvd/Carew](#) – MassDOT
- Armory Bridges - MassDOT
- St. James/Tapley/291 ramps round-about projects – MassDOT
- West Street at Avocado

V. ADA Compliance Assessment

Andy Krar undertook this assessment in Longmeadow and could assist such an effort in Springfield. Will pursue to see if the Planning Department should be taking the lead.

VI. Upcoming transportation project grant opportunities

- By September 15, Springfield will be applying for the [Safe Streets & Roads for All Users grant](#) that is part of the new [federal transportation Infrastructure Law](#).
- Another opportunity is the [Reconnecting Communities Grant](#) (due Oct. 13, 2022) for planning for eliminating highway and railway barriers in a community. We discussed possibilities related to improving pedestrian and bicycle access related to I291 – perhaps the improvements to the Armory/Liberty/291 "circle"

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 AT 6 PM – IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL