

WalkBike Springfield February 10, 2022 Meeting Notes

I. Project Updates

- Armory St. Bridges – [hearing on Feb. 1](#) Instructions for comments at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdot-hearing-handout-springfield-020122-english/download>
- [MassDOT projects in construction & design](#): [St. James Ave/Blvd/Carew](#); [Tapley/St. James](#);
- Springfield DPW projects: <https://www.springfield-ma.gov/dpw/dpw-projects>
- Tapley/Bay (funded with Complete Streets grant, construction fall 2022); Cottage/Berkshire
- MassDOT reviewing high crash locations and considering additional Springfield projects, including Armory/Liberty “circle”
- Other updates from City Engineer Andy Krar:
 - MassDOT Bottleneck grant: expected to be awarded for Cooley/Allen - site visit happening
 - Complete Streets awards: Tapley/Bay sidewalk & crossing; Trafton to Forest Park - construction fall 2022
 - PVPC doing “warrant analysis” for traffic lights at Page & Bircham and Worthington & St. James
 - MassDOT Shared Streets due March 1:
 - Equipment grant: traffic controllers & speed detection signs
 - Street design - crosswalks: Allen & Allen Park Rd. and Dickinson & Appleton
 - 3 ValleyBike stations
- 2022 Repaving – utility deadline Feb. 4; awaiting MassDOT for Chapter 90 funding amount. Possibly Rifle, Goodwin, Liberty, Sumner Ave.
- Mass Gaming grant – East & West Columbus, including bicycle accommodation up to South End Bridge

Concern expressed from Bay area residents about the proposed Tapley/St. James/291 entrance round-about and whether it can really accommodate the level of traffic, especially the number of trucks in that area. Also concern about the Tapley/Bay project. Todd gave background of the effort to not allow MassDOT an exemption to pedestrian/bicycle accommodation as part of the bridge replacement. WBS will pursue getting the documentation that a round-about can best accommodate the area’s truck and other traffic volumes.

Article on Roundabouts 11-21-21 New York Times

https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/20/climate/roundabouts-climate-emissions-driving.html?campaign_id=9&emc=edit_nn_20211121&instance_id=45964&nl=the-morning®i_id=40792722&segment_id=75001&te=1&user_id=3da516159d2fc1c482cd3ec6dc1e334f

II. Trails and Safe Routes to School

The Connecticut River Conservancy, together with ValleyBikes is sponsoring an Earth Day event on April 23 @ 10 am. Most likely to start at Kenefick Park in the North End or by the Basketball Hall of Fame. A test ride is being held on Feb. 17 ay 3 PM.

[A first meeting of the Friends of Highland Railtrail met on Feb. 14 – if you would like to be informed about future meetings, [email Liz Stevens](#)]

Lucy reported that there would be additional evaluation of arrival/drop-off and dismissal/pick-up related to the new DeBerry/Swan Elementary School--expected opening in 2023. The March 17 observations will be at 8am and 3pm. Arrival is from 8:15-8:50am and dismissal is from 3:20 to 3:45pm. Volunteers who are interested in joining should email Lucy.FriedmanBell@aecom.com or call Lucy at 203-242-6644.

III. Wheel Park

The Springfield Parks Commission met on Feb. 10 and voted unanimously to support the Carew Street location for the bike/skate park. The project will also include the adjacent land incorporating renovating/expanding the John L. Sullivan Park which services the Zanetti, Springfield Public Day Elementary, and Boland schools. [See attached plans] Parks has submitted a major grant application to MA Land & Water Conservation Fund.

IV. City Council Maintenance & Development Committee

Jesse Lederman is the new chair of the City Council's Maintenance & Development Committee. At the meeting on January 19, DPW Commissioner, Chris Cignoli reported that Eversource has ARPA funds to undertake Springfield's street light conversion to LEDs and the company is providing DPW with weekly repair updates. Also, in early spring there will be mock-up of a road diet and installation of a pedestrian refuge island on State Street by the Central Library. WBS is advocating for the road diet to extend from Spring/School Streets all the way to Main Street to discourage vehicles from slowing down and then speeding up again.

V. WalkBoston

WalkBoston Annual Meeting – March 30 @ 5 PM (virtual). [Kyle Robidoux](#) is the keynote speaker. Register at: <https://www.givesignup.org/TicketEvent/WalkBostonAnnualMeeting>

VI. WBS Activities

1. Updating the Bicycle Network Map – enough folks agreed to get together to review/update/revise the five-year old Springfield bicycle network map. Date to be Determined.
2. Additional walk audits:
 - a. suggestion to do audits of major streets slated to be repaved
 - b. getting to and crossing into Blount Park

VII. Other

Deb and Vlad have met about the [incomplete/dangerous Chestnut Street bikelane](#). A fix is coming.

Request to determine if MassDEP is being too aggressive related to wetland protection related to the McKnight Trail – recognizing that the design and construction costs for an ever-longer boardwalk may sink the project.