

WalkBike Springfield January 9, 2025 Meeting Notes

I. Roadway projects updates

WBS members reported attending the East Forest Park Neighborhood Council meeting, the previous Tuesday where DPW head Chris Cignoli gave an update.

- Safe Streets for All will involve improvements to 14 intersections and 9 corridors. Awarded from Federal funds 15 million with a 3 million match from the City. DPW has concerns that there is not enough funds because costs have increased.
- The “X” project. Two years of construction. Emphasized that the round-about on Belmont has been eliminated. WBS needs to get an update of the overall design
- There will be less money for street repaving – State Chapter 90 funds flat and other ARPA, etc. funds ended. Awaiting final funding level from state and hearing back from utilities. Need to advocate to state legislators to get increased Chapter 90 funds.
- Repaving Roosevelt from Island Pond Rd to South Branch Parkway. Hope the bike lanes can be improved from previous striping.
- Awaiting notification about a Complete Streets application for the Washington St. School area.

State Projects still underway:

- St. James Ave. St. James Blvd. Carew intersection
- Tapley/St. James Bridge over 291. WBS needs to confirm that bike lanes are not parked in. Discussed enforcement issues, including putting stickers on cars. Need to bring to the attention of the Police that there is no way to issue a citation for bike land parking.

II. Speed Limit Signs

Discussion about getting 25 mph speed signs throughout the City. Need clarification about when white versus yellow signs can be posted. Can fines be levied unless the white “regulatory” signs?” Need to find out where (what street) there have been the most complaints about speeding.

Seems to be a no comprehensive record of signage (speed limit, Give 4 feet, turning, etc.)

III. Bus Stop Crossings Improvements, Four-Way Stops, Speed Humps

WBS representative attended the MassDOT workshop. Initially MassDOT adding improved crosswalk on MassDOT-owned roads. Now evaluating community-owned crossings. WBS has identified 8-10 priorities. Hoping to get 3 upgrades a year for the next 3 years.

There is also a similar MassDOT initiative for installing 4-way stops. WBS should identify priorities. West Springfield has started an initiative to request speed humps. Need for public education of how to request – process is on WBS website.

A member discussed how she recorded going west on State St. from Federal St. which was down to one lane because of construction and the flow was fine. This may be possible with the Safe Street for All road diets, along with bicycle lanes. Cignoli mentioned the possibility of the same for Sumner Ave. from Dorset to Roosevelt. Recent restriping on Parker St. has been positive in slowing traffic, and incentivizing additional such installation in the City

It was mentioned that residents of 16 Acres Council have voiced the need for enhanced crosswalks (like with flashing lights, etc.) on Parker St. from Wilbraham Rd. to Boston Road. He suggested a way to get more folks involved is to suggest that they go to the Traffic Commission. WBS has had variable results. It was suggested that they should follow the example of how meetings are run by the CPA Committee.

Next meeting is Thursday, February 13 at 6 PM by zoom.