



**SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**AUGUST 2010**  
**MINUTES**  
**Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone**

**Community Representatives:**

Brian Postlewaite, Chairman  
Charles Denison, Vice Chairman  
Enid Kumin  
Alex Epstein  
Jim Gallagher  
Alan Moore  
Ron Newman  
Steve DaSilva

**Ex-Officio:**

Janice Delory, Office of the Mayor  
Bob Trane, Board of Alderman  
Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works  
Terry Smith, Traffic & Parking  
Kathleen Ziegenfuss, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development  
Acting Chief Cabral, Police Department

Attending Community Representatives: Alex Epstein (acting as chair), Alan Moore, Jim Gallagher, Enid Kumin

Attending Ex-Officio members: Kathleen Ziegenfuss

Attending Guests: Scott Clark (acting as secretary), Lauren Clayton, Tim Talun

Day/Date: Tuesday August 17, 2010

Time: 7:00-9:00pm

Meeting called to order: 7:08

Location: City Hall, basement employee lounge

**Procedural Business: (30 min)**

1. Secretary: Volunteer — Scott Clark volunteers
  - Kathleen strongly recommends finding a way to keep some level of consistency with the secretary position, for reasons of quality, consistency and accountability with minutes.
  - Alex suggested a rotating position in which a member keeps minutes for several meetings in a row, then another member may take the position.
2. Membership: MetroPedal (Charlie [absent])
  - No updates
3. Minutes: March, May, June & July
  - Rescheduled to next meeting due to lack of quorum
4. Open Meeting Law: (Brian [absent])
  - Kathleen provided a general overview
  - Minutes are due by the following Tuesday.
  - Agenda are due by the Wednesday prior.

- Supporting documents from meeting must be archived with minutes, and be publicly available.
- SBC emails are public records.

**Old Business: (1 hr)**

Infrastructure: (20 min)

1. Community Path: construction update (Kathleen)
  - Community path design is waiting on the FHWA for approval before the design can be progressed to 100%
  - City hopes construction will start next year (2011)
  - Alex asked about connections to Lowell St.; Kathleen mentioned this will be dealt with once the construction/further design agency has been selected.
2. Community Path: Tiger II update (Kathleen)
  - City's application due on Monday, August 23; currently in draft form.
  - Alex proposed soliciting letters of support from regional and especially Minuteman Bikeway-adjointing bicycle committees and organizations, to demonstrate regional importance of the Comm. Path Ext. (CPX)
  - Alex and Alan plan to immediately contact said bike committees/organizations for letters of support
  - Alan proposed getting the Board of Aldermen to pass a Resolution of explicit support for CPX, as well as statements of support from state representatives
3. Somerville Avenue: bike lanes (Kathleen)
  - Outlook for continuous 5' bike lanes seems better than before. Varying bike lane widths may have been resolved.
  - If not resolved, Kathleen reiterated that a memorandum of understanding would state that the bike lanes will become 5' upon the first DPW restriping.
  - Cambridge will match lanes/cross-section on Somerville Ave. at the Porter Sq. city line.
  - Sidenote: Boston will match the bike lane cross section of Washington St on Cambridge Street into Sullivan Sq.
4. Sharrows & Bike Lanes: painting this fall (Kathleen)
  - 5 out of 10 miles in 2010 have been completed, and a further 3 will be on Somerville Ave.
  - Kathleen confirmed that each direction of bike lane/sharrow is individually counted toward the mileage, matching the convention of other cities.
  - Question about small (one sharrow) gap in sharrows on Washington St (Hawkins St to Webster Ave) – Kathleen will add this to the list
  - Kathleen mentioned several options for the last 2 miles of sharrows/bike lanes; pointed out lack of facilities in East Somerville
  - Need suggestions for priorities for sharrows. A few preferences for new sharrow locations came up: Dane Street (Somerville-Washington), Elm Street (College-Cutter), Medford Street (Somerville-Cambridge Line), Willow Ave (Highland-Broadway), and School St
  - Somerville Ave from Prospect Street to McGrath Hwy is 50' wide and may accommodate full bike lanes; Kathleen will confirm.

- Kathleen said that Somerville only has sharrow equipment this summer and that bike lanes would have to wait until spring. Present members said it would be worth the wait.
5. On-Street Bike Parking: (Kathleen)
    - City is working on appeal to businesses to judge interest in on-street bike parking. There will be an application process for businesses to request an on-street rack. City will buy and is prepared to install as many as 3 on-street bike racks by the fall.
    - City's on-street rack initiative is a result of SBC's proposals; no further help is needed from SBC at this time
  6. Davis Sq. MBTA Bike Cage (Alan & Kathleen)
    - Discussion about the scope and nature of this project. This project includes working on the parking lot behind Rite-Aid to create a path that does not run through the lot. Also included is work on the busway, including removal of trees to create an enhanced sidewalk type of path.
  7. Bikeway through Davis Square (updates from Kathleen)
    - Contract work has started to make path around West headhouse more ADA compliant. For this construction season, scope of work is Buena Vista Road to Holland Street.
    - It was not clear what path improvements will be made east of Davis Square through the Rite Aid parking lot and MBTA Busway as part of the project. Raised crosswalk will go in across Holland.
  8. Bike Share: MBTA & MAPC update (Kathleen)
    - Details are still being worked out regarding the model for integrating non-Boston cities. Program delayed to next year.

**Events: (15 min)**

1. Somerstreets: Update from July on Broadway in East Somerville. Next Somerstreet? (Kathleen)
  - Most recent (Broadway in East Somerville) SomerStreets seemed to be very successful and was the best one yet.
  - Businesses were better informed of the event and had more involvement.
  - Event was generally better coordinated.
2. Somerville Climate Action: Climate Change World Cafe & Living Green Festival Update from previous meetings. (Alan)
  - Alan gave very brief overview indicating nothing further is presently needed from the SBC on this topic.
3. Tour de Somerville: update
  - Enid suggested using the 2007 route, which was a tour of former railway routes and stations.
  - Kathleen strongly recommended finding someone to spearhead the ride considering Ron's family concerns
  - October 16 is the expected date for the ride
  - Enid will ask Dick Bauer if he would be interested in leading the ride
  - Enid will take responsibility for working with Dick and distributing tasks.

- Can potentially move the date if necessary to avoid canceling the ride.
4. Potential bike race in Davis Sq, Friday, September 24 (sidenote from previous topic)
    - Being organized externally, help not necessarily needed from SBC

#### **Education and outreach: (20 min)**

1. Maps: updates, can we post? (Kathleen)
  - Boston Bikes map cannot be changed this time around to accommodate all of Somerville
  - Kathleen displayed the official Somerville map, e.g., Somerville Parks and Somerville Walks, and asked about creating a similar map for Somerville bikes.
  - No consensus after discussion, but general support for idea suggested that internal map that was used in Annual Report be posted on City website as short-term upgrade to obsolete “Somerville By Bike” map
2. Website: no updates
3. Email: Google Group updated with past email lists. Agenda will be posted on the Google Group. - no updates
4. Street Safety Campaign (Kathleen)
  - Poster drafts are ready and will most likely be revealed at SomerStreets on Somerville Ave.
5. Next SomerStreets (Kathleen) — arose from previous discussion
  - Potentially Oct 2 due to ongoing construction in relation to Somerville Ave.
6. "I Bike" T-Shirt & SBC Banner (Kathleen)
  - Kathleen mentioned potential to get SBC banner through city/high school
  - Need to make banner as obsolete-proof as possible, e.g, no dates, unnecessary names, etc.

#### **Miscellaneous: (5 min)**

1. Bike/Walk Summit (Alan)
  - Alan and Kathleen may attend
  - Kathleen submitted proposal to present bike count findings
2. Davis Sqr. Bike Counts
  - Kathleen presented the results of the count and distributed summary of findings

#### **New Business: (30 min)**

1. Davis Sqr. Bike Improvements
  - This was discussed as part of Bikeway through Davis Sq. Item above.

No Quorum, meeting adjourned at 9:05 with no vote.