

**SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE**  
**Joseph A. Curtatone**  
**Mayor**

Alan Moore, Chair  
Ron Newman, Vice Chair  
Greg Palmer, Secretary

Jim Gallagher  
Dereck Mangus  
Peter Coyle

Mike Buckley, Office of the Mayor  
Aldermen

Bob Trane, Board of

Police Dept. (vacant)  
Dept. (vacant)

Traffic and Parking

Dept. of Public Works (vacant)

Stephen Winslow, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (SPCD)

**MEETING MINUTES**    Tuesday, April 26, 2005, City Hall

**ATTENDEES**            Alan, Ron, Greg, Jim, Dereck, Steve

**1. Minutes** - Ron Newman, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. The March minutes were reviewed and approved.

**2. City Report** - Steve Winslow

**A. Davis Square crossing/busway** - Steve reports that he has a meeting scheduled with MBTA Bus Operations, and Safety, Friday (4/28).

**B. Community Path - Phase 1, Cedar St. to Central St.:** The Mayor's office issued a press release about funding earmarked for Phase 1. Steve is researching liability insurance, required by the T. He has also sent a summary letter to the T regarding funding, property issues, and freight rights. Alan asked Steve to communicate to the city that the SBC wants to come up with a volunteer approach to starting work on the path extension, such as removing and disposing of ties and rails, clearing brush, and laying down a soft surface. Alan will write up talking points describing these volunteer efforts. Jim asked about the 25% design status, and whether the money is there for the 100% design work. Steve replied that we're waiting for MassHighway to review it, and that yes, the funding is in place.

- **Phase 2, School St. to Cambridge line:** The consultants are finishing up the engineering feasibility study, hoping to have a public meeting in June. Alan reported that he went to a North Point/Cambridge meeting, presented by the developers, and that the path connection to the project and parks were mentioned. He also mentioned that he will send a letter of support to the MBTA for the Mystic River path connection from Somerville to Charlestown/Route 99. Greg added that he will bring up the Rte. 99-Sullivan Sq. connection at the next MassBike Metro Boston meeting.

**C. New Traffic and Parking Engineer** - Terry Smith has started work in T&P. Greg asked that an informational meeting be set up between SBC officers, Steve, and Terry.

**3. On-road accommodations** - School St.: Medford St. to Highland Ave. bicycle accommodations were discussed.

The subcommittee recommended the following: two 10 foot parking lanes, one 14 foot travel lane with "shared arrows", or sharrow, to be painted on the right side/opposite City Hall. In

response to a suggestion about changing the travel direction of the street, Alan asked who has the authority to change street directions in the city. Steve said the Traffic Commission. Phil asked if the sharrows design had been approved for use anywhere else in the city. No, replied Steve. Phil asked why no bike lanes were recommended. Steve said the width of the street can't accommodate any, per accepted engineering guidelines, at least not without removing parking.

A Motion was made: To accept the subcommittee recommendations: Ayes: 3, Nays: 2  
A second Motion was made: To substitute instead the following: one 10 foot parking lane with a 5 foot bike lane (right side), and an 11 foot travel lane with a 9 foot parking lane (left side/City Hall side): Ayes: 3, Nays: 2  
Jim was concerned about too narrow parking lanes. Alan asked if it was possible to reduce the sidewalk width. Steve said no.  
A third Motion was made: to accept the subcommittee recommendations, without the sharrows: Ayes: 2, Nays: 3  
A fourth Motion was made: to accept the subcommittee recommendations, with sharrows on both sides of the street: Ayes: 5, Nays: 0  
The fourth Motion was approved.  
Greg will send out notes about the Willow Ave., Cedar St. site visit by Steve and him.

**4. Bicycle parking** - Jim reported that the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission has proposed to earmark some state- received Federal funds for bike racks, and that 101 communities would be eligible to apply. Also, the Vernon St. artists building contacted us about getting a bike rack for the Open Studios in May. Steve referred them to DPW.

**5. Historical Tour** - The Somerville/Cambridge joint tour of historic sites is set for Sat. May 21. Ron will contact the Police Dept. for bike escorts.

**6. Other issues** - Union Square: Tamara Metz will be meeting with Bhupesh Patel for a site visit, and report back. Potholes: Steve will find out who to contact at the DPW.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 24, at City Hall, basement lounge.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Palmer, Secretary