



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JAMIE BURKE, CHAIR
EILEEN BOTTI
SHEILA FAY
TOM FLOROS
SHANTA KELLER
AMY PLOVNIK
HANNAH RAKOFF
MARIA SAIZ
JENNY WANG

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee** met in person on **Monday December 2, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.**

Present: Jamie, Hannah, Sheila, Maria, Eileen, Shanta, Amy, Jenny; and Zeke Mermell (City staff) & Tyler Glode (City Engineer); Not present: Tom

Acceptance of November minutes: so moved & accepted.

Meet & Greet with Tyler Glode:

- Can you talk a bit about how the DPW functions and how you prioritize projects?
 - Tyler is a licensed PE; prior private work. Started as City project engineer. City now has 5 engineers. DPW: has had a lot of open positions, getting more applications.
- How DPW picks projects:
 - Every year: look at grants and compare to 5 year plan. Look at paving, curb, sidewalk, signal index – rate 1-100. If below 60: bad shape. 67 roads: biggest budget – repaving streets that really need it. Also, longer term road redevelopment – always keeping in mind Complete Streets plan. Needs to play catch up, got behind due to Covid. Complete Streets group will include BPC. Can meet on Prioritization Plan, perhaps quarterly. Hearing about what is upcoming so we can give feedback. Roadways – always playing catch-up, have to deal with funding sources, and lately inflation.
- Priorities on operations & maintenance:
 - Snow removal: get throughways accessible for first responders and schools, then residential areas, then sidewalks & bike ways. By 24-48 hrs, try to wrap up. Follow-up ongoingly with snow removal procedures; challenges on salt use.
- Everyone helps getting grants, including Zeke. New grant coordinator to help bring in grants.
- Covid caused a bunch of day-to-day operations issues – i.e. permits open.
- Bicycle & pedestrian things on the horizon – i.e. path to temp high school, and then how make connections to Howard St – but aspects with MassDOT tunnel.
- Helping when overlaps city and state – help by sending letters.
- DPW & Traffic Commission: City Engineer on it, requests to Traffic all come in from public. Requests get run by intent of Manual - if doesn't meet that intent, won't be allowed. Coordinate with them by writing letters on issues. Some overlap with Complete Streets.

- Would do more of newer designs if more funding: really often about safety (usually not about money). No perfect projects – typically always some folks unhappy. Challenges: lots of historical infrastructure to have to work around.
- Tyler willing to meet with us at least 2x/year. If big project coming up and notices no feedback from us will definitely come for input. Open to new ideas that City could input. Can give input through Zeke.
- What is under Engineering?
 - Tyler: wide purview of DPW operations, Planning should be first stop, then once plan done – then hand to Engineer, what can actually be done. Practical implementations: DPW.
- Pavement condition index always asphalt: alligator cracking, linear cracking, etc. Sidewalk: concrete index: every 15 years replacing them since concrete not lasting as much. ADA: whenever can make those improvements, will do so. Signalized review: working on assessing and plans.
- DPW helps with Bluebikes stations, and helped get bike racks at Parker Annex.
- Quick Build projects: prefers permanent vs temp projects because of maintenance.

Debrief about meet & greet to be at next meeting.

Working group discussions:

- Website – Tom, not here, no update
- Portable bike racks: put out for Merry Mingle, went well. Zeke dropped off the racks, and staff at Mansion put up racks right by entrance. Tammy mentioned perhaps next year on making sure have systematic approach to putting them up. Not to keep them at the Mansion. Racks are now in storage.
- City Council presentation working group- we re-worked and added information from Eileen that can be a handout. Jenny to work on images. Looking at 1/28 Council meeting for presentation. Working Group will meet again next Tuesday 5:30-7pm 3rd fl conference room. Can we hand the Councilors the slides with notes afterwards? Slides and appendix given to them ahead of time in packet.

Stephanie V. reached out to Jamie about some collaborations, will meet with Jamie mid-month.

BPC committee members to respond to Tyler Cote's prompts on Snow Shoveling Ordinance soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS: 1/6/25: 7:30pm Next Bike-Ped Committee Meeting in person, 3rd floor conference room (hybrid)