



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JAMIE BURKE, CHAIR
EILEEN BOTTI
SHEILA FAY
ADRIAN HAUCK
SHANTA KELLER
HANNAH RAKOFF
MARIA SAIZ
JENNY WANG

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee met hybrid on Monday October 6, 2025, at 7:30 pm.**

Present: Jamie, Sheila, Eileen, Hannah, & Maria (in-person), and Jenny & Adrian (remote); not present: Shanta. Zeke Mermell (staff support); Becky Lin, Emily Tibidault, Emon Dawes, Sam Garwin (visitors); Councilor Nicole Gardner (City Council), Tyler Glode (City Engineer)

A. Acceptance of minutes of September 8, 2025, meeting, moved & passed.

B. Updates on open seat – applications now with the Residents Advisory Committee to be reviewed.

C. Arlington St-Nichols Ave-Watertown-Cambridge Greenway intersection & area conversation:

- PowerPoint presentation and discussion. Two Greenway sections constructed 10 years apart, so diagonal crossing need is newer. Noted previously for safety improvements. Collected data on the intersection: in-person: 45% of people there went diagonally. It is harder for walkers. Safety issues: right on red from Nichols, issue with access onto Greenway. Also got data from in-person questionnaires and with QR codes. Reasons for using: commuting & being in the area the most. Safety issues seen on slide. Signal phasing doesn't give enough walk crossing time. Difficulty with sight lines. PowerPoint slide with Quick Build ideas: painting Nichols corner so turn is tighter and allows diagonal crossing safer. The largest concern was signal crossing length. Suggestions of quick builds done in other areas.
- Discussion: Tyler: one of several intersections of note on Arlington St. Difficulty with 5-way road intersection that is signalized. Geometry of this one is difficult. Looked at multiple times. All ped phase is 15 seconds, should be 40 seconds. Tyler will look at the signal length.
- Big issue with illegal right turn. Willow Park redevelopment will bring more children to the area. Filippello Park access is really bad – no good curb cuts, bad sightlines for Arlington St crossing. Coolidge Hill Rd is too steep for ADA compliance and makes difficult to have a roundabout. Could Crawford be closed off, so intersection less complicated? Measure that. Is there a path for testing out these options? Showed different variations of diagonal crossings at other places. Eugene (Oregon) bike only crossing might work here. 24-27 seconds could work. Stripping contract now present, green stripping is more expensive and we are getting near end of time weather allows

stripping. Tyler does not think we can get done this year, needs to be run by colleagues and do some measurements. Next steps: Tyler will look at actual signal lengths (and type of signals have there), explore potential quick-build safety improvements at the intersection, and follow up with Zeke. Putting up a barrier not allowed because the roadway is a public right of way. Cutting back greenery at corner by crosswalks – check with DCR who owns it.

- Access to Filippello Park: what about signage to get there. What is preferred option to get people from Greenway to Park – no curb cut to get across Arlington St if going from Nichols Ave. Need to brainstorm ideas. One idea is Berkeley St as a way to get there.

D. Traffic Commission October 15th meeting, including Russell Avenue: Eileen, Shanta, Jenny, Jamie & Shanta met (Special Committee Meeting) to discuss when thought it was earlier. Commission meeting got moved to Oct 15th at 7pm. Brainstormed ideas about bike lane on Russell. Some residents did not want it, so new idea was mostly sharrows (shared lane), including on Broadway. Worried that maintaining underutilized parking encourages speeding. Are there ideas for slowing traffic? The Committee advises that sharrows don't really help, so is there a way to make safer for kids to get to the new high school? Bike lane should be seen in bigger picture of access. 1 block will have dedicated lane from Mt Auburn St to Broadway. Think about what kind of infrastructure could be done to deal with issues that arise. Could we get community conversation with Russell Ave to discuss the area and see what common goals we could have. Understand parking is tough, but narrowing makes safer.

Need to get the strategic planning info about street & sidewalk redevelopment. Get conversations started in whole City about the whole City plan to have network of safe travel.

E. Faire on the Square debrief: follow up next time.

F. Safe Routes to School: next meeting

G. Mt Auburn Street reconstruction (questions from Sheila): will be striped with bike lanes.

H. Member items/New business: Summer St update to be given in upcoming correspondence.

I. UPCOMING EVENTS:

11/10/25: Next Bike-Ped Committee meeting, 7:30 hybrid