



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

Town of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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ETHAN DAVIS
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JANET JAMESON
AMY PLOVNIK
OLIVER RICK
MARIA SAIZ

WBPC Special Meeting 9.21.20

Present: Sheila Fay, Andy Compagna, Janet Jameson, Amy Plovnick, Maria Saiz, Jesse Hammond, Non-members: Laura Wiener, Susan Flint, Hannah Rakoff

This was a Special Meeting to discuss the draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Action Plan

The following comments were made by those present.

Infrastructure:

1. Change wording of Orchard St crosswalk to say look for options for signalized crossing near Bellevue, or raised crosswalk.
2. Watertown Square: add importance of getting bicycles and pedestrians between Galen St and Watertown Square.
3. Orchard St: suggest striping bike lanes on both sides, short or long term.
4. Main St: Work toward creating protected/separated bike lane for whole length of Main St.

Policies for Safety:

1. Work order request system: a system exists now but not well known. Laura reported it will be addressed by Town as part of improved communications.
2. Reword "Work with Police Dept on ensuring traffic enforcement" to ensure equitable enforcement. Proposed rewording: "Promote safety for bicyclists and pedestrians and request transparency about enforcement".
3. Vision Zero may need to be medium term
4. ADA audit of key corridors should work with pavement management DPW document.
5. Crash clusters: have already applied for HSIP funding for Nonantum Rd– but implementation is long term.

Connectivity

1. Prioritize neighborhood sidewalk improvements needs more specificity. Tie to DPW Pavement plan. Needs criteria for prioritizing improvements. Develop prioritized neighborhood list for improvements and implement in coordination with Complete Streets.
2. Next year's street list for improvements will come out at Thursday's DPW meeting.
3. East-West alternate route to Charles River Paths--is it Pleasant St, California St, Waltham St?

Policies for Connectivity

1. Advocate with DCR for condition of Charles River Path, and advocate for Little Greenough improvements.

Culture

1. Metrics needed to evaluate progress on the Plan. Create working group to develop metrics using Issues and Opportunities, Measure of Effectiveness.
2. Bluebikes: add publicize the stations to: identify additional locations. Use social media.
3. Snow clearance and maintenance: improve snow clearance by town for bike and pedestrian facilities

Funding

1. Walking and biking infrastructure—Timeline is on-going

Vibrancy

2. Measures of Effectiveness unclear, “Reduce reliance on surface parking for travel”.
 3. “Promote access to public land through private development” should be “Publicize existence of rights of way through private development for public access”.
 4. Clarify what is meant by ped & bike facilities. Should be medium term (not long term) and \$\$ not \$\$\$.
- Include bike racks and benches.

Policies

1. Comprehensive review of Zoning Ordinance: should be Short term, not Medium-term.
2. Bicycle parking requirement in Zoning Ordinance needs to be done sooner.
3. Break out reducing parking requirements so gets highlighted.