

## Meeting Minutes

### Salem Bicycling Advisory Committee

Monday, December 18, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: **Dan Shuman (Chair), Raymond Swartz, Eric Papetti, Jayne O’Leary, Michael Williamson, Kylie Sullivan**

Members Absent: Richard Frank, Joseph O’Neil, Michael Jaros

Also Present: Tom Devine, Senior Planner; Matt Smith, Director of Traffic & Parking

Shuman calls the meeting to order.

### Minutes

The Committee reviewed draft minutes from May 16, 2016 and November 20, 2017.

Williamson motions to approve both sets of minutes, Papetti seconds, and all vote in favor.

### Review of Proposed Bike Path Connections at 132-144 Canal Street

The Committee reviewed the project’s proposed connections to the planned second phase of the Canal Street Bike Path, reserving the right to make further comments on the project in general at a later time. The project is currently being reviewed by the Planning Board.

The Committee enthusiastically supports the construction of the new bike path access points because the path will otherwise have few entrances. To promote access at these critical connections, the Committee recommends inclusion of signage that is consistent with Salem’s other bike path entrances, as well as lighting to promote safety and visibility. To prevent vehicles from entering the path, entrances should have a single, centered, removable bollard. The Committee recommends that the northern connection between the bike path and Canal Street be a minimum of 10’ wide for safe passage of cyclists and pedestrians in both directions, and that its outlet onto Canal Street be designed to safely direct users to the nearby crosswalk.

The Committee supports the inclusion of a Zagster bike share station at the southern path connection, but recommends that such a commitment not specify a Zagster station in particular. Because the bike share system’s operation and configuration may evolve in the coming years, the Committee instead recommends an ongoing financial commitment to the system.

Although the Bicycling Advisory Committee did not review the project design beyond the two proposed bike path connections, it does make the following recommendations to support bicycling in general: The residential buildings should include protected bike storage, either indoors or within a covered vehicular parking area. Retail uses should have associated convenient bike parking as well. Furthermore, the Committee suggests that the applicant and the

Planning Board think creatively about any additional means to support increased bicycling in Salem.

Devine agreed to submit a letter summarizing these comments to the Planning Board.

### **Update on Bike Master Plan**

Devine reports that there were two community bike rides with the consultant, led by Papetti. Ward Two Councilor Christine Madore and State Representative Paul Tucker both attended a portion of the rides. This was an important step in collecting baseline data and to identify challenges and opportunities. The City is also providing a base map of the latest bike infrastructure to the consultant. The Wikimap is live online to collect public input.

Devine notes that they may need to hold a big outreach event like an open house rather than small events led by the Bike Plan Steering Committee. Smith notes that the eventual draft plan may prompt a new round of feedback when it is issued. Shuman said his customers would like to receive information about the bike plan. Williamson says he would like to share information at bars in the City. Papetti suggests City Councilors should help do direct outreach.

Devine notes that Zagster has made its data available to our consultant, which includes actual routes that are ridden. Shuman suggests finding information from a past intern project to revisit for the plan.

### **Miscellaneous Updates**

- Smith reports that a preliminary design is being developed for the path connection from the Peter Tracey Walkway to the power plant site and the Committee's input will be important.
- Smith states that the City will be tracking transportation projects more systematically and will be able to share the list regularly with the Committee.
- Sullivan asks where the Essex St. (North St. to Washington St.) project stands. Smith says it hasn't been designed yet, nor has construction funding been secured.
- Papetti asks about projects with improperly drawn bike lanes on Jefferson Ave. Smith says the planned 5' bike lanes vary in width and the Engineering Department will likely require the contractor to restripe it. Planned sidewalk work may result in a chance to look at additional bike infrastructure. Beyond the area with lanes, there are inconsistent parking areas that Smith would like to straighten out. And currently that area is only sharrowed.
- Papetti asks about plans for loading on Washington St. Smith says they need to look at formalizing zones and placing time limits. Some zones are existing but unmarked. The Committee discusses how to best accommodate both loading and bike circulation.
- Williamson asks if downtown striping plans are online. Smith says they are not. The work will be done this spring.
- Devine reports the Planning Board is expecting to see major revisions to the proposed redevelopment at the junkyard at 16-18-20R Franklin St. Once received by the Planning Board, Devine will share new plans with the Committee.

- Williamson asks for the status of the planned hotel at Washington and Dodge Street. Devine states that a substantially revised building design is currently under review by the Design Review Board and Salem Redevelopment Authority and will soon return to the Planning Board too. Williamson says this is an important project at that intersection with potential to connect to the Harborwalk. Devine notes that the City had previously commissioned the design for a connection from Lafayette Street to the Harborwalk between Wendy's and Beverly Bank, but the project did not materialize.
- Papetti stated that the Salem Oil & Grease project is returning to the Planning Board to revise their plans to demolish a building at Grove Street. Papetti sees this as an opportunity to rethink the paths through the site. Devine says the original plan includes a path on the other side of the river in this part of the site. He will take a look.
- Shuman says he has heard about a potential new skate park in the City, separate from a project to renovate the skate park at Gallows Hill. Devine will look into it.

### **Adjournment**

Williamson motions to adjourn, Sullivan seconds, and all vote in favor.

The meeting adjourns at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Devine, Senior Planner

Approved by the Salem Bicycling Advisory Committee on March 20, 2018