

## Meeting Minutes

### Salem Bicycling Advisory Committee

Tuesday, May 22, 2018, 6:30 p.m.  
City Hall Annex, 98 Washington Street  
First Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Joseph O'Neill (Chair), Dan Shuman, Jayne O'Leary, Eric Papetti, Ray Swartz, Kylie Sullivan

Members Absent: Richard Frank, Michael Jaros, Michael Williamson

Also Present: Tom Devine, Senior Planner

O'Neill calls the meeting to order.

#### Miscellaneous Updates

Sullivan describes plans for a Sunday, 6/3/18 ride at the Salem Arts Festival. It will be a public bike tour of the Punto Urban Arts Museum. Zagster bikes will be available, but riders are welcome to use their own bikes too. Devine is preparing a route. Sullivan is reaching out to people who may help lead it. There will also be a bike decorating activity.

A member of the public says she is concerned that Zagster bike share users often do not wear helmets. Shuman says he provides them at his shop with bike rentals.

#### Presentation and Discussion of Proposed Multiuse Path in Front of Bell at Salem Station Apartments on Bridge Street

Nick Downing, Acting Director of Traffic & Parking, presents a proposal to upgrade the sidewalk on Bridge Street to a multiuse path. The MBTA commuter rail is an important destination, but bike infrastructure does not reach the station. The sidewalk is for the most part 10 feet wide. Striping and signage would indicate it is a continuation of the Bridge Street bike path. This would include additional markings for the intersection between the end of the existing path and this sidewalk. Since the sidewalk does narrow in the last portion toward the station, a "bikers dismount" sign would be needed.

Swartz notes the difficulty of getting into the station from the road on a bike. Devine notes that you can ride through and down the garage to get from the Washing and Bridge Street intersection to the platform level. Papetti says he is concerned that a dismount sign, not backed up by an ordinance, gives the misleading impression that biking is illegal on the sidewalk. A "yield to pedestrians" sign might be more practical and match existing law. O'Neill asks about the legality of riding a bike in the proposed "cross bike" markings. Papetti says he sees it as a gray area. O'Leary asks whether the cross bike markings will be used throughout the city. Downing says going forward this should be consistently applied to intersections.

A member of the public states that there is a ramp from Bridge Street to the municipal parking lot at the MBTA station that bikes utilize.

### **Bicycle Master Plan Update**

Devine says that Toole Design Group has revised their Task 1 memo regarding public input in response to feedback on the draft. They are now completing their Task 2 memo covering existing conditions and proposing specific projects.

### **Salem Bike Share Program Update**

Devine reports that April and May are turning out to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest months for the bike share, behind only last October. Ridership surged with the good spring weather and dropped slightly at the end of the Salem State semester and picked up again. Papetti asks whose policy restricts ridership to 18+. Devine says it is Zagster's policy that they explain as having to be in place because their rider agreement is technically a lease. Papetti reminds Devine of the importance of getting Zagster promotion on the ferry and commuter rail. Devine agrees to work to make this happen.

### **MAPC Lower North Shore Trail and Greenway Charrette Follow Up Discussion**

Devine states that he recently attended this charette with MAPV and representatives from surrounding communities to develop a vision for a regional path network. MAPC sees this as involving two tiers of trails: Multiuse paths with solid surfaces and more rugged routes for walking and mountain biking. This is especially valuable at this time because the ongoing Salem Biker Master Plan Update does not go very far to address these regional connections, so MAPC's work helps to fill this gap.

### **Bike Parking Policy Strategy Discussion**

Devine shares specific suggestions for bike parking guidelines from Michael Williamson. Papetti says he hopes that the group could develop specific guidelines to help the Planning Board know what to ask for in terms of mitigation. It would help to see it quantified. Papetti wonders whether staff time can supplement the work of the consultant for this. Devine says he is interested in considering taking this on. He and Papetti agree to speak later about the scope of the potential undertaking.

### **Miscellaneous Update, continued**

Swartz laments the lack of signage regarding whether it is allowable to bike on the sidewalk at the Salem-Beverly Bridge. The Committee discusses the need for cleaning debris from the bridge's roadway surface.

The Committee discusses the upcoming state contract to add bike lanes to downtown streets. The Committee discusses conceptual ideas that had been floated for reconfiguration of the roadways

at Riley Plaza and the Post Office. A member of the public describes options considered for this area. Another resident mentions the challenges of biking from Salem into Beverly.

Shuman announces that the Witches Cup is unlikely to occur this year. After heavy traffic during the last race, it may be hard to get it approved. Participation, sponsorships, and staffing has reduced, too. It may come back in a future year.

Shuman motions and Swartz seconds to adjourn at 7:57 p.m.

Approved by the Bicycling Advisory Committee on September 18, 2018