

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee notes

Date:	3/25/10		
Meeting start:	7:40 p.m.		
In attendance:			
David Belcher	Suzanne Becker	Dave Atkins	Steve Harte
Nora Loughnane	Kela Klosi	Steve Olanoff	Eric Dubiner

Updates on outstanding issues:

1. Lighting near the Senior Center entrance, Crosswalk near Tot Lot and entrance to TMS, Nahatan-High St. intersection

Suzanne Becker updated the group on this issue. Sgt. Sicard is looking into the issue of the crosswalks and the lighting. Sgt. Sicard and John Bertorelli would need to agree that new lighting and/or moving crosswalks would benefit pedestrian safety. In a 2009 study, the Nahatan/High St. intersection did not meet the criteria for a traffic light. The crosswalk by Dunkin Donuts cannot be moved closer to Nahatan Street due to safety concerns.

A discussion about the safety of the middle school and high school bus and car drop-off ensued. Members discussed the possibility of reaching out to the schools in some way to problem-solve ways to improve the safety of the drop-off at each school. Perhaps the School Committee would be interested in discussing the issue with members of our group. No action was taken.

2. East Street Bridge

Kela Klosi updated the group on this issue. She presented photographs she had taken of the bridge, complete with overlays of proposed bridge alteration. These overlays gave members a good view of what a widened bridge opening could look like. We would need funding and town support to intersect in order to make a project of this scope successful.

It was decided that we should begin to explore the issue with the MBTA. A first step will be to see where the bridge is on the MBTA replacement schedule and to secure the original design from Vollmer Associates. Mike Jaillet may have these original plans filed. Steve Olanoff will call Joe Cosgrove at the MBTA and investigate this issue further.

Steve Olanoff has had success with the MBTA in the past. Most recently, many of the ceiling lights were out in the MBTA garage which was making pedestrians feel unsafe. This issue has now been resolved as a result of Steve's efforts.

3. MPO Clean Air and Mobility Program

Dave Atkins updated the group on this issue. He spoke to Eric Barasso at MPO. Dave will submit the online application and has determined that the town does not need to commit to a 20% match. However, the town will need to pay for the design of the project. It is possible that John Bertorelli can draw up the plans that are necessary.



The group looked at a map of the Washington Street corridor stretching from Loring Street to East Street. Originally the plan was to submit a proposal for curb bump-outs and pedestrian-activated, pole-mounted flashers near Loring Street. However, Dave has determined that there is no limit to the funding that can be requested in the proposal. Therefore the proposal will be amended to include:

- 3 sets of pedestrian-activated, pole-mounted flashers
- 3 sets of curb bump-outs/chokers

The proposal will call for flashers and curb bump-outs to be installed at the crosswalks at Loring Street, St. Denis Church and Dean Street. Curb bump-outs would serve to make the crossing shorter and safer for pedestrians. It would also eliminate vehicles using the right-hand lane to pass a car that is stopped for a pedestrian in a crosswalk.



Because this proposal is expanded from the original idea that Mike Jaillet was in support of, Nora Loughnane will speak to Mike Jaillet about the new proposal in order to gain his support.

It was noted that there was a traffic light at Croft Regis Road before the Washington Street reconstruction. Presently there is no traffic calming in the

stretch from Gay Street to East Street. This proposal would address that problem. However, the proposal needs to highlight the benefit to cleaner air and mobility for pedestrians.

4. Bike Racks

The bike racks have been delivered and are waiting for good weather for installation. A member will call Mike Jaillet to check on this.

5. Gay Street Striping

This project is waiting for appropriate weather.

New issues:

At our April meeting we will discuss formal organization of our group, with respect to roles at each meeting. We will make nominations for the roles of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary at the April meeting and will vote on said positions at the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Next meeting is Thursday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. (this is the fifth Thursday, as the 4th Thursday falls during April vacation)

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Harte