

**Massachusetts Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board Meeting Notes**  
**Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**  
**Teleconference**

**\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*:** This meeting was originally scheduled to take place in person. Due to circumstances related to COVID-19, all large out-of-office MassDOT meetings are now being held remotely via the ZOOM app until further notice.

**Welcome & Introductions:** Pete Sutton, ex-officio, called the meeting to order, called roll and motioned to accept minutes from the previous meeting.

**Overview of WalkBoston's current and future walking initiatives**

Brendan Kearney, WalkBoston's Deputy Director for Advocacy provided an overview (attached) on the statewide advocacy group's current and future walking initiatives that focus on increasing public awareness and advocating for specific projects:

- Project review and legislation
- Pushing back against efforts to criminalize walking
- Snow and ice removal
- Walk Audit Academy
- Age-friendly walking
- Fatal pedestrian crashes
- Outreach meetings and events: focus on Worcester

Comments and questions included:

- This work is part of a larger project in partnership with Harvard School of Public Health Prevention Research Center: How do you get people to walk more? The way you do it is by increasing opportunity. How do you get people interested and engaged? It's one thing to emphasize policy systems and environmental change, but you have to help so that people understand how to discover what the rules are in their community, and this is an experiential piece. How do you help them learn to collect information? Through public outreach meetings and the ongoing video series, for example
- Worcester, like so many other gateway cities in Massachusetts, was bisected by highways fifty years ago. What kind of impacts does that have on walking habits today?
  - It still impacts mobility greatly. Related, there is now a Federal discretionary grant program Reconnecting Communities that addresses this very issue: How do you help tell the story of what these roadway projects have done? The Worcester Division of Youth Opportunities are interested in relaying their story regarding about those kinds of factors affect them and their travels
  - StreetsBlog Mass recently displayed some before-and-after maps of the I-190 corridor to highlight the devastating effect it had on that part of Worcester
- The video series is currently being piloted in Worcester to train community leaders on how to lead walk audits and implement change, in a 'flipped classroom' style. Will these videos be made public?
  - Yes, very soon. WalkBoston is very excited to replicate this initiative statewide. We were very fortunate to have Walk/Bike Worcester (and MABPAB member) Karin Valentine Goins leading this strategy: funding through a specific community and working with a number of different groups led by a local partner like Karen - playing that quarterbacking role
  - It was great working with Karen on this. Beyond that she helped fund the whole project, she also made the connections between getting the City on board, hearing from all the residents at the end of it, connecting to a local partner in the Main South section, identifying other important community or youth groups that we needed to get involved and to have participate, etc.

**Overview of new law *An Act to Reduce Traffic Fatalities***

Neil Boudreau - Assistant Administrator for Traffic and Safety with MassDOT's Highway Division, provided a comprehensive overview (attached) on the new law signed by Governor Baker on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. This critical traffic safety bill contains a variety of components to make roadways safer for all users across the Commonwealth, including:

- Vulnerable road users definition
- Safe passing
- Truck safety devices
- Safer speed limits

- Standardized crash reporting
- Rear red light requirement for cyclists

Neil also talked about the detailed selection process regarding the MOTORISTS GIVE 4 FT TO PASS signage designed for cyclists. The new signage installation is expected to be accompanied by a public outreach campaign getting the word out through MassDOT's media outlets, the MA Municipal Association, UMASS Baystate Roads and municipalities

Comments and questions included:

- Any chance of considering adding STATE LAW to the sign?
  - No, the main reason being more text would add another six inches to the sign. MassDOT is trying to keep the signage as simple and compact as possible. However, municipalities could add an additional tab onto the signage if they wish
- Is there a recommendation for effectively advocating such signs at the local level?
  - Once MassDOT finalizes the design, we'll put language together for the website. One of the things that's still on the "to do" list is to develop some kind of guidance in terms of the frequency of the signage, e.g. how often should they be posted?
- When should people start expecting to see these signs come up, and where? Is it going to be statewide or is it going to be concentrated in a particular area to start?
  - MassDOT will target locations in greatest risk areas highlighted within the IMPACT crash portal. We also need to work closely with all six MassDOT districts. Details will also be finalized within the Action Plan of the 2023 Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Pete Sutton provided brief progress updates on the following two items:

- Bike/Ped project implementation (attached)
- Snow and Ice operations, including WalkBoston [comments](#) on MassDOT's 2022 MassDOT Snow and Ice Control Program

### **Age and Dementia Friendly Trails**

James Fuccione – Senior Director of MA Healthy Aging Collaborative Pete Sutton concluded with a presentation (attached) on his agency's work in advocating for and promoting age and dementia friendly walking and cycling infrastructure. Topics covered included:

- Defining age-friendly
- Age and dementia friendly communities
- Integration toolkit
- MA Healthy Aging Data Report
- Age friendly walking and placemaking resources

Comments and questions included:

- You mentioned some good examples: down in Cape Cod, where there is a wayfinding signage pilot project that's underway that we saw last meeting. That's a really good example of beefing up the infrastructure. You also mentioned Cape Ann. Are there any other places across the State and your work that that you see an immediate need for in a specific place, or is it all across the board?
  - Generally speaking, it's across the board. There are some communities that are doing a good job and I think any wayfinding is better than no wayfinding. For people living with dementia, having words and icons are important, because they'll better recognize words and not icons and conversely icons and not words (preferably at eye-level)
  - Some shared streets and spaces grants funded some wayfinding projects and we're curious to see how those are received in different communities. This is our work: to have that age and dementia friendly lens on planning processes, so that this can be inclusive, benefiting everyone in the community
- On your resource list, is there a correct pedestrian barricade to have for wayfinding and channelizing around construction sites that are on the public right-of-way? As a reminder of what to use to detour people around obstacles that are in their walking path when there's construction
  - No, but there's always more resources to create and this is a good example. Construction sites can be especially challenging for people with dementia – not having familiar landmarks to help with navigation due to detours, etc. Simplicity and recognizable design is something to incorporate and look forward to working on this initiative in the future
- When talking about traffic/walk signals, highlight the need for inclusion with sensory disabilities because that's usually overlooked. Having an accessible pedestrian signal that allows somebody

to know the walk signal is on is very beneficial, especially a lot for older adults as well as people with vision impairments

- Regarding public transit, I have a hard time sometimes reading the schedules myself, or finding the signage myself, or if there's any change to a transit system which we know is going to have to occur (e.g. Red Line) happening on a daily basis - specifically in the Boston Metro area
- It'd be ideal to be front and center in those conversations, to make sure that they're both age friendly and dementia friendly and even just finding good connections to transit. We talk about first and last mile a lot for biking and walking – does that take into account some connections to senior centers?
- Better overall connections to transit, because we also know that aging populations and folks with dementia are not driving, so they have to find alternate modes of using regional transit
  - One thing that fits over the different transit systems and points of confusion that anybody of any age might encounter is mobility, management, travel and training for all the new rules that come out
  - It would be great to have education series at councils on aging across the State just to help people know what the new rules are: new infrastructure in a community, for example some people might know or *not* know that a flashing beacon flashes
  - Being able to provide even that level of awareness would be helpful. Boston has the Bus Buddies program where older adults will help fellow older adults navigate the bus and transit system. That's a great example and something that can help you get over confusion and a lack of clear communication in some areas, especially when things shut down

## Other Announcements

- 2023 MassTrails grant funding - Applications are due February 1.  
<https://www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-grants>
- The 2023 MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference is seeking Presentation Abstracts. Submission Deadline is February 10th, 2023. Conference taking place May 2-3 at DCU Center, Worcester. <https://www.umasstransportationcenter.org/assnfe/ev.asp?ID=5162>
- Next MAPBPAB meeting: Wednesday, March 22 @ Lynn Museum and Historical Society
- List of board members in attendance (see below)
- Other attendees:
  - Roger Woodbury (Beverly)
  - Bill Hanson (Framingham)
  - Ben Muller (MassDOT D6)
  - Casey Cooper (CTPS)
  - Anthony Vona (MassDOT D1)
  - Kyle Mowatt (OCPC)
  - Ian Adams (MassDOT)
  - Francisco Lovera (MassDOT)
  - Tom Ruta (MassDOT D2)
  - Nicholas Russo (BRPC)
  - Beth Giannini (FRCOG)
  - Patrick Snyder (MassDOT)
  - Tony Collins (MVPC)
  - Yahaira Graxirena (CMRPC)
  - Jeff Owen (NMCOG)
  - David MacIntyre (MassDOT)
  - Laura Gilmore (MBTA)
  - Sandy Johnston (MBTA)
  - Andrea Papa (EOPSS)
  - Josh Grzegorzewski (FHWA)
  - Tim Paris (MassDOT D4)

**MA BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY BOARD****Board Member Sign-In Sheet  
January 25, 2023 – Teleconference**

| <b>Member Name</b>  | <b>Attended</b> | <b>Notes</b> |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>Tom DiPaolo<br/>MassDOT-Highway</b>  | <b>yes</b>      |              |
| <b>(vacant)<br/>MBTA</b>  | <b>no</b>       |              |
| <b>Pete Sutton<br/>MassDOT-Planning</b>                                       | <b>yes</b>      |              |
| <b>Kurt Gaertner<br/>EOEEA</b>  | <b>yes</b>      |              |
| <b>Gerald Autler<br/>DCR</b>  | <b>no</b>       |              |
| <b>Jackie DeWolfe<br/>MassDOT</b>   | <b>yes</b>      |              |
| <b>(vacant)<br/>DPH</b>   | <b>yes</b>      |              |
| <b>Phyllis Cahaly<br/>MOTT</b>  | <b>yes</b>      |              |
| <b>(vacant)<br/>EOPSS</b>   | <b>no</b>       |              |
| <b>Jeff McCollough<br/>MARPA</b>  | <b>yes</b>      |              |
| <b>Betsy Goodrich<br/>MARPA</b>   | <b>no</b>       |              |
| <b>Jackie Jones<br/>MARPA</b>   | <b>yes</b>      |              |
| <b>Bryce Hoffman – public member (Lowell<br/>Bike Coalition)</b>              | <b>yes</b>      |              |
| <b>Keith MacDonald – public member<br/>(South Coast Bikeway Alliance)</b>     | <b>no</b>       |              |
| <b>Galen Mook – MassBike</b>  | <b>yes</b>      |              |
| <b>Karin Goins – public member<br/>(Walk/Bike Worcester)</b>                  | <b>yes</b>      |              |
| <b>Seun Oluwole – public member</b>   | <b>no</b>       |              |
| <b>James Fuccione - public member (Mass.<br/>Healthy Aging Collaborative)</b> | <b>yes</b>      |              |
| <b>Cheryl Casper – public member</b>  | <b>yes</b>      |              |
| <b>Sam Squalia – public member (Fitchburg<br/>City Council)</b>               | <b>yes</b>      |              |
| <b>Brendan Kearney - WalkBoston</b>   | <b>yes</b>      |              |
| <b>Maureen White - public member</b>  | <b>no</b>       |              |
| <b>Ed Sinofsky – public member (Cape Cod<br/>Cycling Club)</b>                | <b>no</b>       |              |
| <b>Karen Foster – public member (All Out<br/>Adventures)</b>                  | <b>no</b>       |              |
| <b>Meg Robertson – public member</b>  | <b>yes</b>      |              |
| <b>Alice Brown – public member (Boston<br/>Harbor Now)</b>                    | <b>yes</b>      |              |