

**Massachusetts Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board Meeting Notes**  
**Wednesday, July 18, 2018, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**  
**City Hall Plaza**  
**Fall River, MA**

**Welcome & Introductions:** Pete Sutton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

**Members present:** Jackie DeWolfe, Tom DiPaolo, Jeff McCollough, John McQueen, Steve Miller, Joe Repole, Pete Sutton **Members absent:** Rosalie Anders, Cameron Bain, Glen Berkowitz, Dan Driscoll, Kurt Gaertner, Steve Heinrichs, Janie Katz-Christy, Rob Miceli **Guests present:** Julie Boren (MCB), James Cusick (Bicycle Commission), Tom Francis (MassBike), Nelson Hoffman (FHWA), James Hornsby (Bike Fall River), Jackie Jones (SRPEDD), Alfred Lima (Bike Fall River), Keith MacDonald (Westport Bike/SCBA), Frank Menzers (Bike Fall River), Galen Mook (MassBike), John Nery (Bike Fall River), Josh Ostroff (T4MA), Paul Pawlowski (New Bedford Bike/SCBA), Brian Pearson (Bike Fall River), Marcia Picard (Partners for a Healthy Community), Deborah Reher (Fall River Bikes), Nick Schmidt (Toole Design Group), John Sousa (Friends of Quequechan River), Bruce Souza (Bike Fall River), **Guests participating by telephone:** Richard Friese (MassBike), Tim Kochan (MassDOT D5), Wendy Landman, Jim Tozza

**Introductions**

- Pete provided an overview of the day's meeting and kicked off introductions.

**Fall River Mass in Motion**

- Northbound/southbound on-street bicycle project will be implemented this summer.
  - Funded through the Highway Safety Improvement Program
- On-street segments of the South Coast Bikeway currently do not have dedicated infrastructure.
- City completed a health impact assessment before implementation of Quequechan Rail Trail. Generally located in a lower-income area with limited access to automobiles. Great need for trails.
- Within 1 mile radius of trail, there's a wayfinding system showing destinations and how long it takes to walk to the trail.
- Conducting routine activities and programs on the trail to promote stewardship.
- Project used an old rail spur to connect to Rodman Street.
- Conducted a survey of trail users. Interesting results with more than half of users walking or biking more as a result of the trail. Eight percent are using the trail to walk or bike to work. Many great stories about why people are using the trail.
- WalkBoston helped the City establish high-visibility ladder style crosswalks as its standard.
- Mass in Motion conducts a helmet giveaway to children in coordination with the Fall River police department.
- Fall River passed a Complete Streets policy in 2017.
- Discussion:
  - Jeff: Has there been support within City government for these initiatives?
    - City departments have been supportive. However, there is a conflict today, as there are efforts to build a new roadway across the trail.
  - Tom: Can you discuss the Safe Routes to School improvements?
    - Pedestrian-friendly traffic signal equipment, new signs, policy changes regarding pick-up and drop-off.
  - Joe: Commended efforts to implement wayfinding signs.
    - Stop & Shop provided parking spaces for trail users. Trail signs located on UMass property.

**Pedestrian and Bicycle Plans**

- Pedestrian Transportation Plan:
  - Secretary is reviewing it now. Will be posted for 30-day public review soon.
  - Last updated in 1998.
  - Will include performance measures to track progress towards initiatives and actions.
- Bicycle Transportation Plan:
  - Pete introduced the Municipal Resource Guide for Bikeability.
  - MassDOT is starting a bicycle counting program pilot on the Longfellow Bridge between Boston and Cambridge
  - Wendy: If the State is thinking of addressing e-bikes and paths, recommend bringing in detail to MABPAB and early in the process.

- Another comment: Be careful about pedestrians on trails with visual and hearing impairments relative to e-bikes.
- Ribbon cutting for the South Acton commuter rail station will happen next month.
- Mattapoisett and Fairhaven have introduced dockless bikeshare. Bikes are well used around town, not just on paths. Vendor is VeoRide.
- Steve: bikeshare is such a rapidly changing topic, consider updating this chapter continually.
  - Pete: The Bike Plan will live online, so it will be updated as conditions change. No printed copies of the document.
  - Jackie: Originally, the Bike Plan's bikeshare task was much bigger and included a community assessment tool. Scaled back to reflect the rapid changes in technology.
- Comment: Would love tandem bikes to be available in bikeshare systems to help those with physical disabilities.
  - Nick: Referred person to Portland, Oregon's, BIKETOWN bikeshare system, which features accessible bikes that can be reserved in advance.
  - Steve: Suggested MassDOT provide a consolidated list of bikeshare vendor information online.
- John: Define who is responsible for maintenance: friends groups, state, city, etc.? Early on in the document, review existing Massachusetts laws that apply to cyclists. Suggest tips on biking, like wearing vests, helmets, lights, etc. Provide information on where municipalities can buy such supplies.
- Joe: Consider speed limits for all bikes on paths.
- Comment: Illinois passed legislation that requires walking and biking training for school children. Can MassDOT help with this in Massachusetts?
  - Steve: The MA legislature dropped this education aspect from the recent bill "An Act to Reduce Traffic Fatalities."
  - Richard: Low-income school districts in receivership tend to drop Safe Routes to School when faced with budget cuts.
  - Galen: For the time being local efforts are the best bet for requiring bike safety education. Recommend adding a police education element to the Municipal Resource Guide. Overall the document lacks an education chapter.
- Julie: Does the RMV include bike education in the tests?
  - Pete: Road testing questions are randomly selected from a pool of many questions. No guarantee that a bike question will be incorporated into the final test.
- Comment: Are motor scooters allowed on shared use paths? Technically not allowed when the motors are above a certain horsepower. Regulations are confusing. Someone noted that Martha's Vineyard does enforce them.
- John: Suggested that police education includes bike rodeos for adults and children.
- Comment: Asked if MassDOT is working to advance rail with trail designs. Fall River community looking locally at a rail with trail.
  - Jackie: Depends on the context, but MassDOT is trying to advance trails statewide, including rails with trails. Requires additional coordination. MassDOT working to clarify the process for communities and post online.
- Julie: Thinking of Route 6, are there examples of narrowing streets to advance walking and biking conditions?
  - Jackie (SRPEDD) looking at narrowing a section of roadway near Wareham.
- Galen: How will MassDOT further analyze the Potential for Everyday Biking to identify gaps? For example, are there targets like "We're trying to get 30% of the population access to high-comfort bikeways?"
  - Jackie: Working to figure that out. The Potential for Everyday Biking already prioritizes areas based on demand for trips and proximity to transit, bike crashes, and environmental justice populations. Looking for opportunities to piggyback on existing projects that are programmed in TIPs throughout the state.
- Comment: Will the Potential for Everyday Biking allow for roadways parallel to main roadways to be emphasized? In some cases that may be the better choice than trying to take the main street. Discussed in the context of Route 6 around UMass Dartmouth.
  - Nick: Yes, the scores are purposefully calculated to reflect the bikeability of an area overall and not to focus on specific roads and routes. Scores emphasize where people want to go and since most of the shopping is along Route 6, the scoring indicates that bikeways should be on Route 6.

- Tom: When will the Potential for Everyday Biking maps and scores be available to view and use?
  - Jackie: Will be rolled out as part of the draft and final plan in the coming months.
- Paul: Can the Potential for Everyday Biking indicate where a trail should go?
  - Nick: It does not replace local planning, but is an indicator of where there is need for biking. This helps align investment with where people are known to travel.
- Comment: Rail Division does not seem to go along with Rails with Trails concept. Citing specific example in Fall River toward Newport.

### **South Coast Bikeway Alliance**

- Hurricane barrier in New Bedford has Zagster stations.
- Looking at Strava data, particularly where there's not much activity, to identify areas where investment is needed.
- Several towns are actively planning for their segments of the South Coast Bikeway
- Alliance's big efforts focus on connections between Fall River and New Bedford. There are three alignment options that they are analyzing.
- Pursuing Community Preservation Act funding. New Bedford has deferred action until the fall. However, two other towns have already approved.
- Working on identifying a UMass Dartmouth trail connection.
- VeoRide bikeshare is operating in Mattapoisett and Fairhaven and Zagster is operating in New Bedford. Hope is that towns may come together in the coming years and use a single vendor.

### **Other business:**

- MassDOT has received 50 MABPAB applications. However, still seeking applicants from central and southeastern MA.
- Mass Trails Team includes MassDOT, DCR, and EEA to pool resources to create more and better trails. Team meets every two weeks. Learning that not every trail needs to go through the TIP process. For example, Northern Strand Trail in Everett, Malden, Revere, Saugus, and Lynn will be funded by EEA.
- New trail funding awards to be announced at an event tomorrow in Cape Cod.
- Closing comment from attendee: Watch what's happening in Fall River very carefully. Trying to allow a private road to cross and then parallel the new rail trail. City is ignoring Article 97 process.