

Active Transportation Working Group  
August 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Members (present): Bryan Plummer, Vicky Berg, Jess Porter, Howard Ostroff, Courtney Daly, Jeremy Rosenberger

**Bryan called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm**

**Public Comment:** none

**Approve meeting minutes** (July 2024): approved

**Member updates**

Chair:

- ATWG participation at SBRC discussions; highlighting various walk, bike and roll accessibility and safety issues around Oakdale
  - Members agreed parking on sidewalk is a big issue in this area
  - SBRC will determine the scope of what they can and want to finance as part of the SBRC project funds
- Bike rodeo was a great event; nice turn out and hope to see safer roadways to enable more cycling around town for kids

Jess Porter:

- Asks about if meeting minutes are posted on the town website. (response, they should be - Bryan will check why they are not)
- Points out Jim is still the PB rep on the aTWG website (Bryan to fix this)

Howard Ostroff:

- Shares about the Better Bus Project
  - MBTA, five year project, will look at bus routes in the area
  - Howard will keep an ear to the ground if there's any mention for a Dedham route

**Discussion: Street Mural #2 (Whiting Ave & Mount Vernon St)**

- Update: delayed to 2025
- Need to follow up with relevant stakeholders to inform and plan accordingly (collab, local businesses, those who donated, etc)
- Jess Porter suggests enquiry around what 'engineering and studies' still need to happen for this bump out aspect to happen. Specifically it would be helpful to understand the scale of the study and potential costs, because if they are minimal ATWG might be able to raise donations or get a grant to cover the costs. Jeremy noted this type of project can be completed by hiring Engineers directly, there would not need to be an RFP or complicated procurement process.

**Update: Local Road Safety Plan**

- Chair: shared update from some of the documents under review and how they align with our ATWG goals from 2023. The below are excerpts from the proposed recommendations and lead responsible section.

- Select Board: The TSWG and Select Board should adopt a formal Vision Zero statement
- DPW/Engineering “Create a formal role for the ATWG to advise Town staff and the Select Board on advocating for multimodal and transportation safety elements to be included in MassDOT projects in Dedham.”
- DPW/Engineering “Travel lane widths – develop a more flexible policy for determining lane widths when roads are repaved or restriped, reducing lane widths where feasible through either striping changes or physically narrowing the geometry of the roadway. Both AASHTO’s Green Book and MassDOT’s Project Development and Design Guide support 10 ft. lanes, with Section 4.3 of AASHTO’s Green Book including 9 ft. lanes among the “generally used” lane widths. 9 ft. lanes may be considered on some low speed, low volume local streets.”
- Planning/Zoning “Develop updated plan for a connected bike network in Town with accompanying bike route signs to identify dedicated bike routes connected to major destinations in Town; consider using location-based data on current bicycle and pedestrian activity patterns (e.g., Strava data) to inform the plan.”

Discussion: Bicycling in Dedham: what can we do to improve safety

- Chair:
  - shared pictures from the car show at Endicott and how cars were parked all along East St in the bike lane; also parking in bike lanes on Ames St
  - Shared graphics from the Complete Streets training program around how to best design to encourage cycling through complete streets design practices
- Jeremy pointed out that if the town is going to add bike infrastructure it should be actual bike infrastructure, not just a line on pavement. Bike infrastructure should be safe and separated from automobiles, but the challenge is that safe infrastructure can be expensive and you might encounter resistance from people who don’t want to prioritize spending on those safety features.

### **New/old business**

Howard: Has been getting notices from the Boston Region MPOs transit Working Group; he will start attending those meetings as a way to get into the system and find out what is happening in the greater Boston area and the broader region. He will report back to the ATWG.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm