Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Wednesday, January 22, 2025
At 3:30 PM
Via ZOOM

MINUTES

Members Present: Ian Golding (Chair), RJ Turcotte (Vice Chair), Edwin Claflin, Michel Kremer, John Mynttinen (arrived 3:35PM)
Members Absent: Joseph Topham, Laura Walters
Staff Present: Mike Burns, Leah Hill, Vince Murphy, Rachael Freeman
Others Present: Laura Marett, Kelly Zhan, Linh Pham, Liz Phelps

1. **Administrative Items**
   a) Call to order
   - The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:33PM

   b) Establishment of a Quorum
   - The Chair declared a quorum present

   c) Approval of Agenda
   - There was unanimous approval of the agenda by rollcall vote (John M did not participate)

   d) Approval of Minutes – December 18, 2024
   - Motion to approve by Michel K, seconded by Edwin C. There was unanimous approval of the agenda by rollcall vote.

2. **Action and Discussion**
   a) Washington Street coastal resiliency improvements - bike/pedestrian accommodations
   - Mike B noted this was an opportunity for BPAC to review improvements along Washington St and discuss how flood mitigation improvements align with mobility recommendations for the corridor.
   - Leah H introduced their design consultant SCAPE who presented an overview of the schematic design for resiliency improvements along Washington St and Francis Beach.
   - Michel K asked about an elevated path option over the water/harbor.

- Laura M noted they did preliminary investigation into the permitting requirements for that option and it would be a hurdle.
- Vince M added that there would be permitting challenges to locate a path beyond the waterline/tideline.
- Edwin C noted he felt safe in this section of roadway and that bicyclists may not use the boardwalk and would prefer to be in the roadway.
- Laura M noted it would be good guidance to understand if bicycle accommodation would be an on-street facility as a commuter route as opposed to the boardwalk for casual use.
- There was general discussion of encouraging bicycle use instead of driving.
- RJ T mentioned he would prefer the swoop design to continue bike rider flow.
- Mike B asked for BPAC to provide direction on the scope for bicycle accommodations along the corridor to ensure the planning documents reflect the scope BPAC recommends.
- RJ T made a motion for the short term for for usable shoulders along Washington St for bicyclists, seconded by Edwin C. Edwin C asked if the Land Bank would control the path. Rachael F responded that the Land Bank has a variety of easements for path with the Town. The vote was approved unanimous.
- There was no other discussion.

b) Continue discussion of path stop sign removals
- Ian G noted that four roadways had recommendations for sign removal and asked for next steps.
- Mike B responded that an intersection caution sign could be used to replace stop signs, as recommended at the previous meeting. There was no materials ready for review at this month's meeting.
- Ian G suggested the topic be carried over for next meeting.

3. Other Business

a) Committee Comment
- Edwin C asked about the crosswalks at intersections and felt safer at crossings away from intersections. And suggested that the Polpis Rd at Milestone Rd intersection project would add conflicts by requiring users to cross four lanes of traffic.
- Mike B responded that crossings located at intersections was considered safer as there is a stop control. And further clarified that the intersection project would remove a lane of traffic to reduce conflicts.
- There was general discussion of mid-block and intersection crossing safety along Milestone Road.

b) Public Comment
- No public comments.

4. Adjourn
- Motion by Edwin C seconded by RJ T to adjourn. Vote to approve was unanimous.
- The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:53PM

Submitted by:
Mike Burns