

# Minutes of the Bedford Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting

## Wednesday, November 9, 2022

### **BBAC Members present:**

Mark Bailey    Samantha Baron    Aaron Bourret  
Craig Jackson    Garth McCavana    Peter Weichman

### **BBAC Members absent:**

Richard Baughman

This is a joint meeting with TAC, and is an online/virtual meeting, recorded through Zoom. A quorum was present and the meeting came to order at 7:00 pm, Mark Bailey presiding for BAC and Dawn LaFrance–Linden presiding for TAC. Aaron Bourret is our newest BAC member. (Previous BAC member). Also present were Scot Shaw, John McClain (TAC), Margot Fleischman (TAC Select Board liaison), Jeanette Rebecchi (DPW), Lou Rabito and Beth Isler (Jacobs Engineering), and Nick Howard (public participant and new TAC applicant).

*Great Road Safety Analysis and Improvement Plan:* Beth Isler and Lou Rabito reported on the Jacobs Engineering Great Road safety analysis. A map was shown with Springs Road, Concord Road, etc., accident hot spots. There is a cluster of bicycle related accidents at the Wilson Park triangle. A Yield sign issue was identified there. Other identified traffic problems include lane constrictions and areas requiring lane changes, with drivers jockeying for position.

The improvement plan included signal equipment upgrades, and pedestrian safety. There were recommended updates at all major intersections, including shortening of corner radii to reduce the distance that pedestrians spend in the street. New signal at Brooksbie Road, including adjusting the intersection to remove the skewed angle. New signal at the Route 4, 225 split (near North Side Convenience). Discussion of driveway consolidations, improvements to walking and bicycling infrastructure (along the lines of the 2015 Master Plan). New street connections are proposed to better spread out traffic, reducing the number of dead ends. Some of these proposals date back as far as 1967. A possible source of external funding is the MassDOT local bottleneck reduction program, which provides a maximum of \$500K per year.

There was an extensive question, answer, discussion session. Wiggins Avenue as a new traffic corridor, given that it is mostly commercial. Improving the Shawsheen Road–Great Road split. Current plans would not change any speed limits. Complaint regarding the apparent inability of the Shawsheen Road traffic light to sense waiting motorcycles. An obvious question is whether such improvements would end up increasing through-traffic, and also end up making bicycle and pedestrian experience worse.

*Other DPW Updates:* Jeanette reported on some of the transportation plans out as far as 2027 and 2029. Obviously, the further out the less certain the exact timing.

*Minuteman Extension Project:* Dawn proposed a final bike/walk informational gathering on Sunday (Nov. 13). **A TAC motion was made to approve this as an official TAC event. The motion was seconded and passed TAC unanimously.**

**A TAC motion was made to approve that Dawn speak for TAC at Town Meeting in favor of the project. The motion was seconded and passed TAC unanimously.**

**An identical BAC motion was made to approve that Mark speak for BAC at Town Meeting in favor of the project. The motion was seconded and passed BAC unanimously.**

*Other Business:* Garth reported that the “Burma-shave” signs were ordered, arrived, and placed. However,

they were stolen six days later!

*Adjournment:* At 8:55 pm a **motion was made** to adjourn the BAC meeting. **The motion was seconded and subsequently passed BAC unanimously.** The next joint BAC-TAC meeting is planned for February 2023.

—*Minutes submitted by Secretary/Clerk Peter Weichman*