

Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes September 24, 2012

Aldermen's Chambers, City Hall, 25 Dorrance St., Providence, RI

All members present (Jenna Yu arrived at 4:15) and David Everett (staff) plus guest Katuska Perez (Mayor's Office). The meeting started at 4:05 pm.

1. Providence Cyclovia recap (Katuska Perez): The event was held on Sept. 9 from 10 to 12 along a half-mile stretch of Broad Street. The response overall was positive though the event was slow in developing. There is interest in doing it again. Ideas for improvement include: the addition of a first aid station and portable restrooms; adjustments to the timing of business presentation; consideration of a later start (perhaps noon); co-sponsorship by Healthy Communities; a less concentrated, more spread out event. The next Cyclovia is expected to be planned for the spring; decisions about whether to expand or contract the area and include or move to additional streets will be determined.

2. Public Comment:

• Jill Colinan advocated for safer routes to and from the South side for bicycle commuters, specifically along Elmwood, Dexter and Bucklin. Discussion followed about related road repaving opportunities vis-à-vis the Road Bond.

• Discussion: connecting bike paths at the city center and coming into the city from neighboring communities. Also the need for more effective crosswalk lights.

- **James Kennedy advocated for removal of parking for a wider bike lane on Westminster St. on the West side.**
- **Discussion: public education for drivers and riders needed – driving with traffic. A possible public education event/training session and training for bus drivers and other drivers.**
- **Discussion: the need for more bike racks – not only downtown but in neighborhoods/commuter areas.**
- **Discussion: need to make the link between the Bike Prov plan and repaving via the Road Bond.**

3. Builder's Ball/CycloCross Promotion (Eric Weis): Opportunity to promote bike culture; consensus that Dept. of Art, Culture & Tourism should handle promotion.

4. Ordinance language review: BPAC members will redline existing ordinances to highlight inconsistencies and possible changes.

5. Sidewalk Snow Removal (Jef Nickerson): Discussion about enforcement issues regarding residential sidewalk snow removal requirement. Dave Everett will look into who the appropriate person is to contact at the City level (DPW, Inspection and Standards, Police). Additional questions about where snow is and should be piled. To be continued.

6. Sidewalks during construction activity (Jef Nickerson): Discussion regarding regulatory amendments and/or enforcement to address pedestrian access during construction when sidewalks are impassable. This will be further explored at a future meeting.

7. Utilities and repaving: Discussion about holding utility companies to a higher standard of repaving after underground work.

- 8. A representative of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council advocated for better signage at the Henderson Bridge.**
- 9. Joelle Kantor reported that the Providence Foundation's wayfinding plan does not currently include signs for bicycles and pedestrians but said the foundation would be open to it.**
- 10. Election of officers: Eric Weis was elected Chair and Jenna Yu was elected Vice-Chair.**
- 11. Discussion about bike lane concepts, including contra-flow.**
- 12. Next meeting 10/22/12, location to be determined.**

Submitted by David Everett

10/17/12