

Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Approved MINUTES

September 17, 2014, 4:30 PM

Members Present: Eric Weis, Jef Nickerson, Matthew Moritz

Staff: David Everett

Denise Kaplin of the Greater Providence Y appeared before the Commission to discuss and advocate for International Walk to School Day and the bigger picture of sustaining the effort and encouraging and facilitating walking to school and eliminating barriers to doing so. The website is walkbiketoschool.org and educational resources exist to educate youth about street signs, rules of the road, etc. Discussion also briefly touched specifically on Walking School Bus programs and associated road safety audits and assessments.

Next, Jef Nickerson described numerous instances of confusion and inconsistency surrounding pedestrian-activated signals at intersection crosswalks (or “beg buttons”). Discussion centered on their possible elimination at numerous locations on Broadway and elsewhere where an automatic phased cycle might be more appropriate. Eric suggested a pilot project to assess specific intersections. Nate Urso of DPW noted some of the locations and suggested that BPAC generate a list. Matt Moritz made a motion,

seconded by Jef, to formally ask DPW to assess problem intersections with pedestrian signals.

Nate Urso of Providence DPW provided updates on road resurfacing projects and confirmed that the bike lane on Broadway would be extended as promised. Discussion revealed that shared land markings were erroneously painted instead of a bike lane; Nate said that this would be corrected. Additional discussion about Broadway concerned motorists using the newly striped bike lane to make turns onto the service road.

Eric gave quick updates on George Redman Linear Park, Blackstone Bikeway Section 1A, and Woonasquatucket paths.

Dave Everett briefly described the Safe States project that will support existing and future Walking School Bus initiatives and school zone safety, including developing uniform signage and striping standards. A discussion briefly followed about schools with limited pedestrian accessibility due to highways and multi-lane roadways without appropriate pedestrian accommodation. A second discussion concerned congestion around schools at dropoff and pickup times and the need to better address this (Lauro and Cuffee were cited in particular).

Emily Koo of the Mayor's Office briefly gave an update on the bike share program: Alta is currently negotiating with potential sponsor(s)

with a late October goal for concluding that aspect of the process.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00PM

Respectfully submitted by David Everett