

Holyoke Biking and Pedestrian Committee Meeting Minutes

On **Monday, August 2, 2021**, the Holyoke Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee held a hybrid public meeting at City Hall Annex Conference Room 403 and on zoom.us (Meeting ID: 820 4102 2277 Passcode: 880832 or call in 929-205-6099) This meeting took place at 6:00pm.

Attendance: Committee Members present– Price Armstrong, Eduardo Baez, Elena Langdon
Municipal Staff: Cynthia Espinosa (OPED), James Czach (DPW) Late Arrival: Shannon Bliven (6:15pm)

Absent: Bob Perient, Kristen Sykes

1. **Call to Order:** At 6:09pm, Cynthia Espinosa made a motion to call the meeting to order. Eduardo Baez seconded the motion. All were in favor, via roll call, 4-0-3 (Absent: Kristen Sykes, Shannon Bliven, Bob Perient)
2. **Review of minutes July 2021:** Cynthia Espinosa made the motion to approve the minutes. Eduardo Baez second the motion. All were in favor, via roll call 5-0-2 (Absent: Kristen Sykes, Bob Perient)
3. **Public Participation:** Lucy Friedman-Bell, New Safe Routes to School Coordinator attended the meeting and present to discuss the agenda items related to Safe Routes to School Walking/Biking School Bus.
4. **Complete Streets- DPW.**
 - a. **High/Maple Street Letter-** Price Armstrong shared the letter drafted for MassDOT.
 - i. Public Hearing scheduled for August 18, 2021. Cynthia Espinosa shared the flyer with all Bike Ped Committee members and asked if committee members can join her to walk around High/Maple corridor to share the flyer with stakeholders. The flyer is a notice of the public hearing. Shannon Bliven offered to help Cynthia Espinosa to flyer. Eduardo Baez asked to confirm that the upgrade would be also of the traffic boxes. James Czach confirmed the upgrade does include traffic boxes and lights.
 - ii. Eduardo Baez mentioned that at the intersection of Maple and Appleton, one of the traffic lights having the biking lanes helped with traffic congestion.
 - iii. Price Armstrong read out loud a draft letter supporting the project on behalf of the Bike Ped committee. ***Shannon Bliven made the motion to approve the letter with amendments to include move economic development benefits of walking and biking. Elena Langdon seconded the motion. All were in favor, via roll call 5-0-2 (Absent: Kristen Sykes, Bob Perient)***
 - b. **South Holyoke Homes-** James Czach mentioned that the project is taking shape, including sidewalk curbs, adjacent to the Carlos Vega park, some improvement is being implemented. Price Armstrong asked that on Fairfield Avenue he noticed that the water mains were being fixed due to water issues if the streets are going to get patched or repaved. James Czach will find out more details about it, as one

of the phases for similar work was completed in The Flats. Price Armstrong asked if this project can be an opportunity if the street is repaved, if there can be any bicycle accommodations. ***James Czach will find out more details about the final restoration of the street.***

- c. **MassTrails-** Cynthia Espinosa shared with committee members the executive summary of the feasibility study and shared that the project is approximately \$9 million dollars and will work with DPW to include it on the TIP process for funding.

5. Events

- a. Debrief- Latino Outdoors July 24th Hike
 - i. Shannon Bliven mentioned that the event was great, not a big crowd however about 20 folks did the hike/walk, and had some individuals tried the ValleyBikes after they went hiking. Shannon Bliven spoke with Latino Outdoors volunteers and they are interested in partnering with ValleyBike for a biking tour. Price Armstrong mentioned that maybe partnering with the Bike Breakfast. ***Price Armstrong asked Cynthia Espinosa to include in future agendas the dates of the committee events. Cynthia Espinosa agreed.***
- b. SRTS Walking/Biking School Bus- Lucy Friedman-Ball shared that a Walking/Biking School Bus Day will take place on ***October 6th*** as this date is the International Walk to school day. The plan is to have volunteers meet students at certain points/places, then having a goodie bag for the children. Also, potentially volunteers at each school (elementary/middle school). On September 16th at Peck, there will be a safety event “Bike Rodeo”.
- c. COVID Freedom Walk and Roll-August 28, 2021- Shannon Bliven asked if the Bike Ped Committee is officially involved in the event. She will be attending in a ValleyBike capacity. Cynthia Espinosa shared that the event is on the agenda as a reminder of a walking/biking event happening in the city that it is up to the committee on how to get involved. Elena Langdon will be available to assist Shannon Bliven on August 28th.
- d. Baystate Bike Month September 2021- Price Armstrong asked the committee members if they can create a sub-committee to discuss the logistics of each Bike Month event. Shannon Bliven, Kristen Sykes and Elena Langdon are the subcommittee members. Cynthia Espinosa offered to help with the flyers once the details are settled. ***Event dates: September 13th Bike Breakfast, September 18th Canal Tour.***

- 6. **Valley Bike Update- Cynthia Espinosa and Shannon Bliven-** Cynthia Espinosa asked what are some options to engage users. Price Armstrong suggested to spend a day at a popular Bike station and have people fill out the survey.

- 7. **Old Business: Bike Ped Brochure-** ***Price Armstrong and Eduardo Baez agreed to meet outside of the committee meeting to put together a draft of the brochure that will have information about the committee.***

8. New Business:

- a. Bike Racks-** Cynthia Espinosa asked committee members if they have suggestions of bike rack locations/needs in the city as she is looking to find art related funding for installing new bike racks with an art design. Price Armstrong suggested using the “01040” as a bike rack. Transportation funding can assist with this project. Price Armstrong suggested in front of Crave restaurant, Shannon Bliven suggested that some bike racks are movable so that ValleyBike could potentially use them for the virtual stations. Eduardo Baez suggested near the Holyoke Medical Center.
- b. City Council Engagement-** Price Armstrong suggested that committee members attend a Development and Government Relations sub-committee meeting of the City Council to see how to engage city councilors instead of inviting them to the bike ped committee meeting.

9. Scheduling next meeting: Monday, August 30, 2021 at 6pm

10. Adjourn meeting: At 7:33pm, Shannon Bliven made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Eduardo Baez seconded the motion. All were in favor via roll call, 5-0-2. (*Absent: Kristen Sykes, Bob Perient*)