Holyoke Biking and Pedestrian Committee Meeting Minutes

On **Monday, August 30, 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, Kristen Sykes, Elena Langdon, Shannon Bliven Municipal Staff: Cynthia Espinosa (OPED), James Czach (DPW) Absent: Bob Perient, Eduardo Baez

- 1. Call to Order: At 6:05pm, Elena Langdon made a motion to call the meeting to order. James Czach seconded the motion. All were in favor, via roll call, 5-0-2 (Absent: Bob Perient, Eduardo Baez)
- 2. Review of minutes August 2, 2021: Elena Langdon made the motion to approve the minutes. Shannon Bliven second the motion. All were in favor, via roll call 5-0-2 (Absent: Bob Perient, Eduardo Baez)
- **3. Public Participation:** There were no members of the public.
- 4. Complete Streets- DPW.
 - a. High/Maple Public Hearing Debrief- James Czach and Cynthia Espinosa lead the conversation in debriefing the public hearing. Around 18 members of the public attended the MassDOT hearing on August 18, 2021, three members of the public were opposing the removal of parking on maple street between the intersections of Essex and Cabot Street, in front of the public library. MassDOT took into consideration this feedback and the consultant is going back to the drawing board to make alternatives to meet the concerns of the public and to also meet the complete streets regulations. Price Armstrong lead a discussion on how to be more involved in the project, including creating more educational opportunities. *Price Armstrong suggested that the city creates an educational sub-committee and would like to be invited as the chair of the committee*.
 - **b. South Holyoke Homes** no updates
 - **c. Rapid Flashing Beacons/Complete Streets Funding Update-** Will ask Mike McManus for more details about the Complete Streets Funding.
 - **d. Other projects:** Elena Langdon mentioned James Czach in regards no crosswalks on Route 5, close to Fairfield Avenue. James Czach shared that north of Route 5 will be some studies of a shared used path within the next five years.

5. Events

- a. Baystate Bike Month
 - i. Bike Breakfast-Monday, September 13- Price Armstrong asked Galen from MassBike if they can be a fiscal sponsor to accept donations on behalf of the committee and Galen agreed. Price Armstrong will reach out to People's Bank for a donation to be able to purchase food. Cynthia Espinosa mentioned that Key Bank reached out to her regarding being involved in the community and will share the contact information with Price Armstrong to connect with them. Cynthia Espinosa mentioned that Holyoke Health Center will be donating 100 apples and will have a table at the event to share information. Cynthia Espinosa also filled out the

permits needed for the event. Kristen Sykes mentioned that in the previous meeting was mentioned to invite the Mayor as other events they have invited them. Price Armstrong mentioned that the previous Bike Breakfast event does not have a critical mass of people at the same time to have a speaking agenda, but recommends inviting them to hang around and be part of the event. Shannon Bliven mentioned that there is no bike groups in Holyoke and it would be great to have the committee connect with people in the city to learn about biking groups. Kristen Sykes mentioned that in the Northampton Bike Breakfast they provide a survey, and wonder if this committee would like to provide any surveys, specifically if they know about the bike ped committee. Shannon Bliven mentioned it is a great idea. Price Armstrong mentioned that it ties into the Bike ped brochure. Cynthia Espinosa mentioned that she can do a bike breakfast press release and flyer. Kristen Sykes could help with the press release. Sub-committee scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, September 1st at 2:30pm.

- ii. Canal Walk & Bike Tour- Saturday, September 18- Committee members decided to move the event for Saturday, October 16th, 2021 in collaboration Doors Open Event that the City is planning already. Kristen Sykes will reach out to Greg and Chronic Trips to see if they would like to partner. *Cynthia Espinosa will reach out to Latino Outdoors as well*.
- b. Debrief: COVID Freedom Walk & Roll- Tabled for the October meeting
- c. SRTS Walking/Biking School Bus-October 6, 2021- Cynthia Espinosa just has an update that she reached out to partners for the event, specifically to school staff to discuss planning the event. Lucy Friedman-Bell mentioned that she will be reaching out to the new Superintendent Anthony Soto to discuss more Safe Routes to School.
- 6. Valley Bike Update- Cynthia Espinosa and Shannon Bliven
 - **a.** New Stations Ribbon Cutting-Friday, September 17th, 10am- Cynthia Espinosa shared the event with the bike ped members and if they are available to attend, they are welcomed.

7. Old Business:

- **a.** Bike Ped Committee Brochure- Eduardo Baez and Price Armstrong met and drafted a brochure of the bike ped committee. Kristen Sykes mentioned that Cynthia should use the Back to School event for the brochure. *Cynthia volunteered to edit the brochure and share it with the committee in a future meeting.*
- 8. New Business:
 - a. Bike Racks suggested locations- tabled for October meeting
 - b. Bike Ped Committee Logo- tabled for October meeting
- **9. Scheduling next meeting:** Monday, October 4 at 6pm
- **10. Adjourn meeting:** At 7:38pm, Kristen Sykes made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Cynthia Espinosa seconded the motion. All were in favor via roll call, 5-0-2. (*Absent: Eduardo Baez, Bob Perient*)