

Holyoke Biking and Pedestrian Committee Meeting Minutes

On **Monday, October 4, 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, Eduardo Baez Shannon Bliven Municipal Staff: Cynthia Espinosa (OPED), James Czach (DPW)

1. **Call to Order:** At 6:03pm, Elena Langdon made a motion to call the meeting to order. Kristen Sykes seconded the motion. All were in favor, via roll call, 7-0-0
2. **Review of minutes August 2, 2021:** Kristen Sykes made the motion to approve the minutes. Elena Langdon second the motion. All were in favor, via roll call 7-0-0
3. **Public Participation:** There were no members of the public.
4. **Complete Streets- DPW.**
 - a. **High/Maple Public Hearing Debrief-** James Czach shared that the design was amended to have parking on both sides of the streets on Maple between Appleton and Cabot Street area, which was the most concerning to the public which they shared during the public hearing. The design got approved by MassDOT and the city is working on easement and title documents and next steps as there is a short timeline.
 - b. **South Holyoke Homes-** October 15, 2021 at 12pm Noon there will be a celebration of the project near Carlos Vega park in South Holyoke. All committee members are invited.
 - c. **Rapid Flashing Beacons/Complete Streets Funding Update-** James Czach and Cynthia Espinosa shared the rapid flashing beacons locations that are currently in the installation phase. Price Armstrong asked about the Complete Streets Funding plan and all committee members agreed to spend more time during the next meeting to discuss the complete streets prioritization plan.
 - d. **Center City Connector-** James Czach shared that there will be a virtual public hearing in November about the design. Price Armstrong asked if Cabot Street will have any bike facilities and Cynthia Espinosa shared that she believes it does included but will confirm. Kristen Sykes asked Cynthia Espinosa to share the information once she receives it, and Cynthia Espinosa agreed.
5. **Events**
 - a. **Debrief: Bike Breakfast September 13** – served about 75+ people during the event. Lessons learned: Signage of the Bike Ped Committee, including a banner and brochure. Mostly had pedestrians stop by and some bikers stopped by. Kristen Sykes mentioned that because there was the People’s Bank banner, many thought the group was representing the bank. Kristen Sykes will take on the email sign up list for people to be involved or learn more about the committee. Price Armstrong mentioned that the committee will do another event once the Bike Month is shared for 2022. Cynthia Espinosa asked for a committee member to share a testimony of the event for the OPED’s newsletter. Price Armstrong shared that he will email Cynthia Espinosa a quote. Shannon Bliven mentioned that having the

grab and go bag was very successful and should be repeated for the next year's event.

- b. Debrief: COVID Freedom Walk and Roll-** Cynthia Espinosa shared that the event was in August and around 20-30 participants for the event. OneHolyoke CDC will be planning a similar event in which they will have the same route for next year.
 - c. SRTS Walking/Biking School Bus- October 6th** – Lucy Fieldman-Bell shared that on October 6th is the international Walk, Bike and Roll to school day and in Holyoke, there will be walking school buses at 6 schools: Peck, Sullivan, Donahue, Morgan, Lawrence and Kelly schools. Snacks will be provided to the schools. Lucy Friedman-Bell shared that volunteers are needed for the Peck and Lawrence walking school buses. Shannon Bliven shared that she can give 50-75 reflector lights of ValleyBike for the goodie bags. Elena Langdon and Eduardo Baez volunteered for the other walking school buses.
 - d. Canal Tour-Doors Open Holyoke-** Cynthia Espinosa shared that the Doors Open Holyoke Event will include in the map the ValleyBike Stations located near the sites that are going to be open. Shannon Bliven mentioned that it was a lot happening that day and she will be setting up at the Farmers' Market giving out information.
- 6. Valley Bike Update- Cynthia Espinosa and Shannon Bliven-** Shannon Bliven mentioned that the artists posters were installed in stations that are not sponsored. Ely Court Station has the meter high and too close to the panel, so it was challenging to place the poster on it. Shannon Bliven also mentioned that other stations throughout the region also have it. James Czach asked what is the ideal distance of the meter to station. Shannon Bliven mentioned that at least 2-3 feet separation between the meter and the station kiosk. Kristen Sykes asked about the professor, Nick who is doing statistics of ValleyBike in Holyoke. Cynthia Espinosa and Shannon Bliven shared that they both attended the class to share about the stations in the city and history of the committee. More information will be shared with the committee once the statistics class makes their presentation.
- 7. Old Business:**
- a. Bike Racks suggested locations-** Kristen Sykes recommended long-term storage of bikes/covered racks at the Depot Train station. Other locations suggested by the committee members were: public schools, Holyoke Community College, Race Street, Pulaski Park, Veterans Park. Kristen Sykes will send resources to Cynthia in relation to bike parking.
 - b. Bike Ped Committee Logo-** Suggestion of changes include different fonts, curbed name, less bike wheel detail, no rode, use colors white, black and/or purple, no gendered pedestrian and include a kid. More simplicity and different versions for the committee to review.
- 8. New Business:**
- a. Committee membership and roles-** Price Armstrong shared that in January the committee will have to select a new Chair and Vice Chair and would like to learn

about the interest from the committee members in regards of taking on the Chair role. Cynthia Espinosa shared that another role to consider in the committee is secretary. Members would like to discuss more the roles and they would like to review the Bylaws during the next meeting.

b. Road Safety Audit Friday, October 8th 1:30pm-3:30pm at Dam Café

9. Scheduling next meeting: Monday, November 1st

10. Adjourn meeting: At 7:31pm, Elena Langdon made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Kristen Sykes seconded the motion. All were in favor via roll call, 7-0-0