

On Monday, May 2nd, 2022, the Holyoke Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee held a hybrid public meeting at City Hall Annex Conference Room 403 and on zoom.us (Meeting ID: 838 8891 7091 Passcode: 509264 or call in 1 646 558 8656) This meeting took place at 6:00 pm.

Members: Shannon Bliven – Chair, Eduardo Baez, Kristen Sykes – Vice Chair, Price Armstrong, & Elena Langdon

Attendance: Committee Members present – Shannon Bliven, Eduardo Baez, Kristen Sykes, Price Armstrong, Elena Langdon, Aaron Vega (OPED), Ileana Carrion (OPED)

- 1. Call to Order:** At 6:05 PM, Shannon Bliven made a motion to call the meeting to order. Price Armstrong seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- 2. Review of minutes April 2022:** Price Armstrong made a motion to approve the minutes. Kristen Sykes seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- 3. Public Participation:** Lucy FriedmanBell from Safe Routes informed us that there would be an upcoming meeting on Thursday, May 12th, regarding starting a walking school bus in the area. Ileana Carrion agreed to send Lucy the contact information for all the BikePed committee members. Lucy further informed that the walking school bus is a great opportunity to support students walking to school and partner with local community organizations.
- 4. Complete Streets DPW:** Robert Peirent, Holyoke City Engineer, joined the meeting to provide an update on Complete Streets. Robert informed that there are no updates on Complete Streets, and there are 72 pending Complete Street Projects he has been unable to complete. Robert announced that a new individual taking his role would be starting on May 31st, and they will work together for a smooth transition. Robert indicated that hopefully, when the individual begins, they can make progress on projects. Additionally, Robert informed that until the pending Complete Streets projects are complete, they cannot apply for additional Complete Streets funding. There has not been progress within the last year, aside from rising certain sidewalks. There has been no update or mention of the Complete Streets Ordinance during City Council meetings. Price Armstrong asked Robert to confirm if the Department of Public Works (DPW) is down two staff people. Robert confirmed this is true, and there has not been a Superintendent since November 2021. Price indicated this is disappointing and not a good situation for the city. Shannon Bliven informed the committee she would like to change the BikePed mission statement to include aspects of Complete Streets Ordinance. Kristen Sykes brought up the recent facility in Holyoke and requested an update. Robert informed MassDOT is investigating certain intersections, and there have been other accidents; however, they have been pedestrian induced. Additionally, the High/Maple Street project was deceased due to MassDOT not funding the project.

5. Events-

- a. **Breakfast:** Shannon Bliven said she is trying to get additional donations for the May breakfast and is unsure of the Board of Health guidelines. Aaron Vega suggested the Chair and perhaps Ileana Carrion sit down with the Director of Health to review procedures and finalize any permits or certifications that will be needed. Additionally, Aaron mentioned that when the Mass in Motion Coordinator starts, many BikePed projects will fall under them. Aaron informed that the BikePed Committee needs to be mindful of how they communicate and make decisions since one member does not have an active email address. Therefore, if decisions are made via email, this will exclude one member. Aaron mentioned when it comes to subcommittees, OPED does not staff them, and they are welcome to organize and convene on their own. Lastly, Shannon suggested for the breakfast we invite HCC students to help volunteer, and Elena Langdon will be bringing the banner for the breakfast from People's Bank.

6. Old Business:

- a. **Artistic Bike Racks:** Ileana Carrion informed that there had not been many proposals for the bike racks, and Aaron indicated perhaps an RFQ would be suitable to gather some candidates. Shannon suggested checking with DeanTech if any students are willing to design.

7. New Business: None.

- 8. Discussion of possible new member:** All committee members expressed excitement for the new member to join. However, the official nomination will be moved to June 2022, so the new member can join.

9. Scheduling next meeting: Monday, June 6th, 2022.

- 10. Adjourn meeting:** At 7:24, Shannon Bliven made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Kristen Sykes seconded the motion. All were in favor.