

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 7 PM via Zoom

Meeting was called to order. Present were:

Bicycle Advisory Committee: Gina Bellato, Mitch Heineman (Chair), Emily Jacobsen, Alicia Lai, Neal Lerner, Mark Lowenstein, Jacob Meunier

Public: Sam Archer, John Bowman, Perry Grossman, Elena Huisman, David Kroop, Don McNamara, Jules Milner-Brage, Jan Preheim, Cynthia Snow, Loren Stolow, Lynnae Terrill, Matt Wunderlich

1. Introductions

2. Other business

- December minutes approved unanimously
- Open projects (see meeting materials)
 - We should inquire why Brookline Ave. has been pushed to 2024
 - David Kroop points out that Green St. is marked complete, but signage does not conform to town's rules – question for Todd what is or is not included in punch list
- New business
 - Hammond Pond Parkway (DCR) public meeting January 21st, comments close Feb. 4 for ped/bike improvements
 - Gateway East Bus lanes Improvements. Unanimous vote to submit memo on bike impacts prior to Jan 25 T Board meeting. Emily to draft memo

3. Member update

- Crash Report (Sgt. Sutherland) – two crashes reported
- Transportation Board (Ali Tali) – no update
- Sustainable Transportation Working Team (Mitch) – no update
- LivableStreets (Jacob Meunier) – no update

4. Educational pamphlet

Sam discussed safe cycling pamphlet to be distributed within Brookline for cyclists based on previous work by Daniel Martelly. Alicia volunteers for graphic design help. Town Counsel and Chamber of Commerce would like to see design before town seal is affixed. See if Landry's and Boston eBikes in Washington Square would be interested in having this pamphlet. Todd previously offered to print them

5. BrooklineBikes.org update/migration/stewardship

Town would prefer that we don't use BrooklineBikes as a brand on the Bicycle Advisory Committee website to minimize potential confusion with BikingBrookline, but okay to keep website name if we

want. Jules cautions that we should ensure web searches that point to existing pages don't end up in dead ends. Alicia and Lynnae volunteer to assume webmaster duties from Don.

6. Twitter

Lynnae will review activity by other communities and present social media strategy suggestions at next meeting.

7. Green Routes Plan

Neal and Mark volunteer to take lead on 2021 update, aiming for March T-Board presentation. Mitch will update maps. Committee members to read and suggest any new sections to be included.

8. Committee and organizational liaisons

Committee members to decide which organizations to be a part of.

9. Construction management plans

Emily to share proposed revisions to Transportation Management Plan and Construction Management Plan with BAC and PedAC to solicit input.

10. 2021 goals and priorities

Bike counts – Cynthia wants to transfer responsibility to new champion. Discussion on whether town staff might take it on. Jules suggests possible Warrant article to earmark funding.

End-marked contra-flow bike lanes – Could Brookline do a pilot?

Meeting Adjourned



Brookline Bicycle Advisory Committee

JANUARY 6, 2021



Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Other business
 - a. Approve minutes
 - b. Open projects
 - c. New business
3. Member update
 - a. Crash Report (Sgt. Sutherland)
 - b. Transportation Board (Ali Tali)
 - c. Sustainable Transportation Working Team (Mitch Heineman)
 - d. LivableStreets (Jacob Meunier)
4. Educational pamphlet (Sam Archer)
5. Website update/migration/stewardship
6. New Twitter account
7. Green Routes Plan update
8. Committee and organizational liaisons
9. Construction management plans (Emily Jacobsen)
10. 2021 goals and priorities

2b. Open Projects

- ⌘ Davis Ave: T-board discussion January 2021
- ⌘ Gateway East: Roadway construction substantially complete. Punch list, lighting, landscaping, etc. restart Spring 2021
- ⌘ Carlton Street Footbridge: **MassDOT awarded contract. Construction expected to begin Spring 2021**
- ⌘ Capital Improvement Plan projects
 - ⌘ Ivy and St Mary's streets: complete
 - ⌘ Hammond Street: concept design approved by Board. CIP funding placed in future years
 - ⌘ Beacon Street westbound - Town line to Carlton: Substantially complete, punch list being worked on
 - ⌘ Green Street: substantially complete, punch list being worked on
 - ⌘ Beacon Bridleway Study: beginning with Toole collecting data
 - ⌘ Harvard Street: no update
 - ⌘ Brookline Avenue: developing concepts that may be included in **FY2023** CIP budget. Sent to MBTA, MASCO, PedAC. SMAC, etc. for input. Next step is public meeting
 - ⌘ Longwood Avenue: developing concepts that may be included in **FY2024** CIP budget
 - ⌘ Newton Street – Clyde to Town line: substantially complete, punch list being worked on
 - ⌘ Goddard Avenue – Newton to Avon: substantially complete, punch list being worked on

changes in **bold**

2c. New business

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Improvements to Hammond Pond Parkway in Newton 1/21/2021

Thursday, January 21, 2021
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

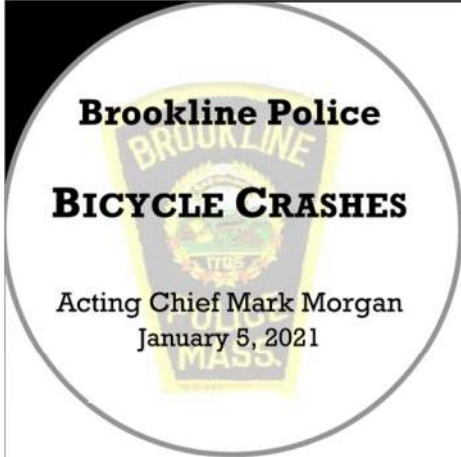
Posted: December 22, 2020 10:50 a.m.

Last Updated: January 4, 2021 1:41 p.m.

[Register here →](#)

From Todd: We last spoke with DCR concerning HPP/WRP improvements right before COVID. Their plan was to divide HPP into sections and make improvements in Newton first because they had a pending pavement project there. I will reach out to them to see what their current plan is and if they can expand this to include Brookline.

3a. Crash report



Brookline Police
BICYCLE CRASHES
Acting Chief Mark Morgan
January 5, 2021

BIKE CRASH REPORT
DECEMBER 2020

There were 2 bicycle crashes reported during the month of December 2020. Below is a highlight of the incidents.

Case Number	Date	Time	Location	Fault (If Determined)
	12/15/2020	1522	Boylston St/Warren St	
2020-5959	12/26/2020	1546	Lee St/Dudley Way	Vehicle

From Sergeant Sutherland: Both crashes resulted in minor injury; no transport to the hospital. Second crash was hit and run; vehicle has not been identified. Feel free to reach out to me or the other bike unit supervisor, Sgt. Casey Hatchett (chatchett@brooklinema.gov) who works in the Community Service Division.


4. Educational pamphlet

Road Safety: Traffic Laws

- Obey all traffic laws.
- Riding on the sidewalk is allowed except in business districts.
- Pedestrians always have the right of way.

Road Safety: Be Predictable and Be Seen

- Always signal your movements.





Left Right Right (alt) Stop

- Scan around and behind you before turning.
- Travel in a straight line as much as possible.
- Use reflectors on your bicycle and person.
- Be aware of the blind spots of cars and trucks.
- Ride at least 3 feet away from parked cars to stay clear of opening doors.
- Legally, bicycles can take up the entire car lane, which helps avoid cars passing too close.



Further Resources

- Brookline Bicycle Advisory Committee**
www.brooklinebikes.org
- BlueBikes**
www.bluebikes.com
- Brookline Police Bicycle Information**
www.brooklinepolice.com/161/Bicycle-Information
- Brookline Bicycle Registration**
Call (617) 730-2222 and ask to speak with a member of the Patrol Bicycle Unit, or email the Unit's Supervisor, Sgt. Sutherland at bsutherland@brooklinema.gov
- Bicycle safety education classes from MassBike**
www.massbike.org/education
- If you crash... from MassBike**
www.massbike.org/if_you_crash
- Additional bike safety information**
www.nhtsa.gov/Bicycles
- Bring bikes on transit**
www.mbta.com/bikes


Sponsors/supporters:

BrooklineBikes.org

Guide to Safe and Happy Biking in Brookline



Why Bike?


- It's a low impact exercise
- It's a great way to spend time outside.
- It increases the safety of our streets.
- It helps reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.
- It's a quick and affordable way to get around town.

Getting Started

- Prepare with appropriate gear, such as a rain jacket, gloves, a scarf, or layers. You can ride in any weather!
- Plan your ride before leaving the house and look for bike lanes.
- Be confident! Bikers are just as entitled to the road as motorists. It's your road tool!
- Start by biking on weekends or on the Emerald Necklace to avoid heavier traffic.

Bicycle Gear




- Helmet**
Tighten the straps so that the helmet is level and snug.
Helmets are required by state law for those 16 years old and younger, but always recommended.
- Lights**
By law, you must have a front white light while the sun is down. It's also recommended that you have a rear red light.



Equipment Safety


Check your ABCs each time you ride

- Air** - There should be very little give when you squeeze your tire.
- Brakes** - Test your brakes.
- Chain** - Keep your chain oiled and inspect it for debris.


Bicycle Gear

- Lock**
Cable locks are easy to cut through, consider using a U-lock when locking your bike outside.
Secure the frame and front wheel together to an immovable object. Do not lock to a handicap parking space pole or fire hydrant, as it is illegal.





U-lock


Protected bike lanes (great for beginner bikers)





Normal bike lanes (keep an eye out for opening car doors)



Sharrows (ride three feet away from other cars, and make yourself visible)



Unfold here

5. Website update / migration / stewardship

BrooklineBikes.ORG

- 🚲 T Board recommends we rebrand
- 🚲 Outdated user experience
- 🚲 Outdated content
- 🚲 Hosted on Don McNamara's Amazon Web Services account
- 🚲 GoDaddy domain registered to Harry Margolis

Home

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Mailing List

The Brookline Bicycle Advisory Committee

Brookline has a population of approximately 55,000 and offers a mixture of urban and suburban living in the Boston metropolitan area. Many neighboring governments, including Boston proper, Cambridge, and Newton are also taking steps to improve the local bicycle infrastructure.

Bicycling in Brookline

The Town of Brookline desires to improve conditions for bicycling and to promote bicycling by children and adults, for both transportation and recreation.

Bicycling is an attractive and efficient mode of transportation for trips whose distance is in the range of 0.75 to 5 miles. A large fraction of Brookline residents make trips in this range, including local errands and work trips to such destinations as Cambridge and Boston. Our youth, in particular, make many trips in this range, going to school, to playing fields, running errands, and visiting friends. For those living too far from school to walk there, bicycling offers a means of traveling to school independent of bus schedules, without driving or being driven in a car, improving opportunities for participation in extra-curricular activities.

In comparison with driving, bicycling reduces traffic congestion, parking need, energy consumption, and air pollution. Bicycling to work or school is also a way to get routine cardiovascular exercise with little or no incremental time commitment. Many Brookline residents want this kind of opportunity for themselves and for their children.



Website link suggestions

Brookline

- 🚲 [DPW Transportation Division](#)
- 🚲 [Bicycle Friendly Community Bronze status](#) (2016)
- 🚲 [Complete Streets Plan](#) (2018)
- 🚲 [Complete Streets Policy](#) (2016)
- 🚲 [Town Meeting](#)

Guidance

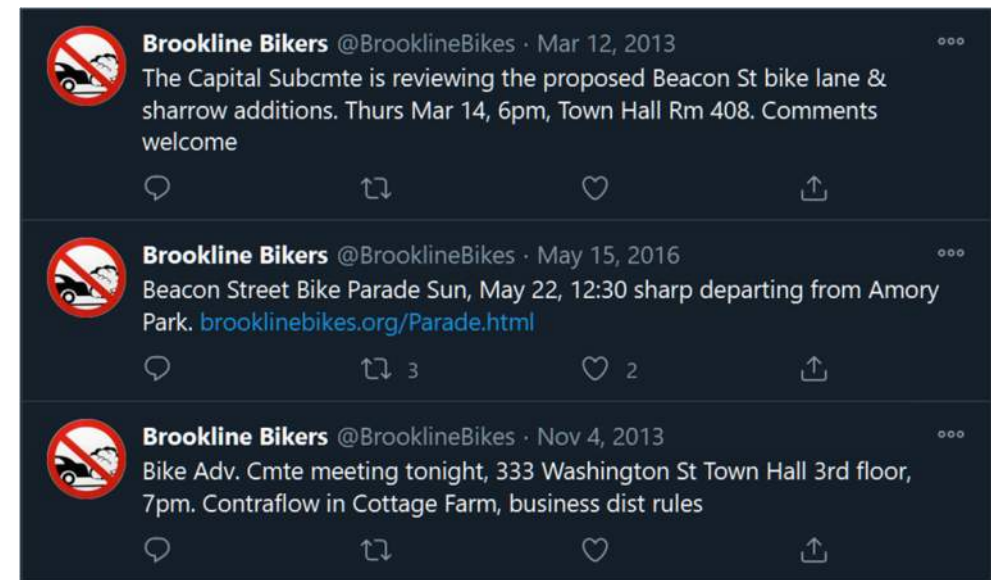
- 🚲 [AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities](#) (2012)
- 🚲 [FHWA Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#) (2012)
- 🚲 [NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide](#) (2014)
- 🚲 [Promoting cycling for everyone as daily transport mode](#) (EU)

6. New Twitter account

- 🚲 @BrooklineBikes Inactive since 2019
- 🚲 Owner unknown
- 🚲 Political endorsements led to posting of a disclaimer on our website



Profile card for **Brookline Bikers** (@BrooklineBikes). The profile picture is a red circle with a diagonal line over a black car icon. The bio includes the location "Brookline, Massachusetts" and the date "Joined April 2010". It shows "212 Following" and "686 Followers". A blue "Following" button is visible. A snippet of text below the bio reads: "Followed by CarFreeBoston has a radical environmental agenda, Brookline Scooter Fan, and 32 others you follow".



Three tweets from Brookline Bikers (@BrooklineBikes):

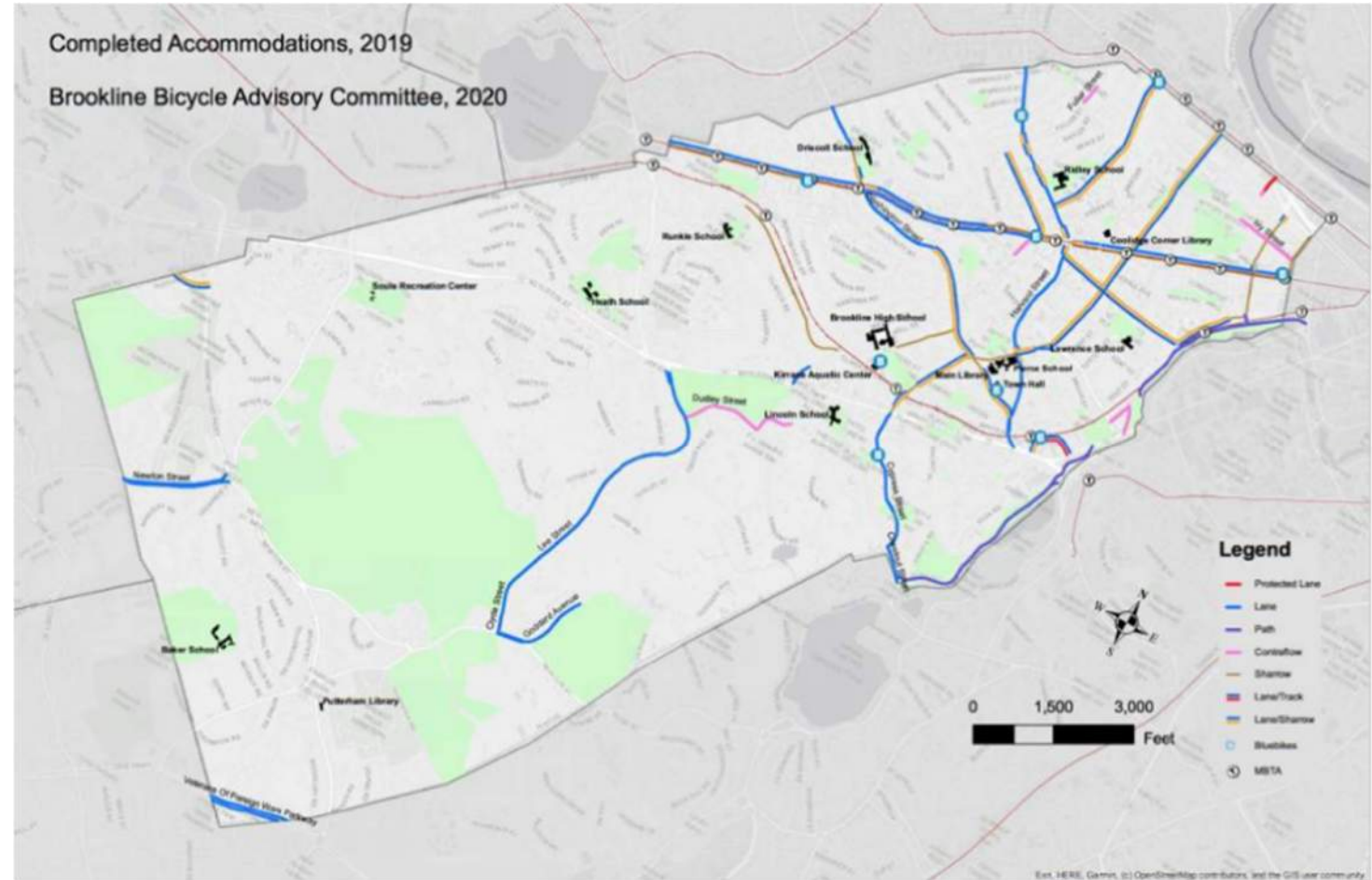
- Mar 12, 2013**: The Capital Subcmte is reviewing the proposed Beacon St bike lane & sharrow additions. Thurs Mar 14, 6pm, Town Hall Rm 408. Comments welcome
- May 15, 2016**: Beacon Street Bike Parade Sun, May 22, 12:30 sharp departing from Amory Park. brooklinebikes.org/Parade.html
- Nov 4, 2013**: Bike Adv. Cmte meeting tonight, 333 Washington St Town Hall 3rd floor, 7pm. Contraflow in Cottage Farm, business dist rules

7. Green Routes Plan update

Green Routes Bicycle Network Plan

January 2020

Brookline Bicycle Advisory Committee



2021 Green Routes Plan revisions

- 🚲 New content
 - 🚲 Executive summary, highlighting changes for current revision
 - 🚲 2020 extended sidewalks and Saris Wave Delineator pilot
- 🚲 Approved projects (move to Section 7)
 - 🚲 Hammond Street
- 🚲 Completed projects (move to Section 9)
 - 🚲 Gateway East
 - 🚲 Beacon St from St. Mary's to Carlton parking protected bike lane. Modify rest of section on p. 18 to address remainder of that section of Beacon St.
 - 🚲 Green Street contraflow
 - 🚲 Newton Street: Clyde to Town Line
 - 🚲 Goddard Avenue: Newton to Avon

8. Committee and organizational liaisons

Brookline

- 🚲 [Transportation Board](#)
- 🚲 [Pedestrian Advisory Committee](#)
- 🚲 [Shared Mobility Advisory Comm.](#)
- 🚲 [Commission on Disability](#)
- 🚲 [Safe Routes to Schools](#)
- 🚲 [Climate Action Committee](#)

- 🚲 [Biking Brookline](#)
- 🚲 [Climate Action Brookline](#)
- 🚲 [Community Aging Network](#)
- 🚲 [Greenspace Alliance](#)

Municipal government

- 🚲 [Boston Bikes](#)
- 🚲 [Newton Transportation Planning](#)
- 🚲 [Cambridge Bicycle Committee](#)
- 🚲 [Somerville Bicycle Committee](#)

Local Advocacy

- 🚲 [Longwood Area Cyclists](#)
- 🚲 [I90Allston.org](#)
- 🚲 [Bike Newton](#)
- 🚲 [Cambridge Bicycle Safety](#)
- 🚲 [Somerville Bicycle Safety](#)

Regional Advocacy

- 🚲 [Bikes Not Bombs](#)
- 🚲 [Boston Cyclists Union](#)
- 🚲 [Livable Streets](#)
- 🚲 [MassBike](#)

9. Construction management plans

10. Goals and priorities

- 🚲 2020 process
 - 🚲 February meeting brainstorming
 - 🚲 27 survey responses 2/18-3/3
 - 🚲 Subcommittees: How many? Identities? Leaders?
- 🚲 2020 top priorities
- 🚲 Other identified 2020-2021 priorities
- 🚲 Open discussion

2020 top priorities

Short Term

- ⌘ Engage with town staff to hire new PW director
- ⌘ Beacon inbound pilot project during AM rush hour
- ⌘ Interim repair of Washington St. bike lane
- ⌘ Driscoll School street analysis
- ⌘ Engage PD to enforce speed limits

Long Term

- ⌘ General bike infrastructure improvement pilot projects
- ⌘ Identify key line items to include in design briefs for major building/street projects so bike/pedestrian/transit improvements considered early in process
- ⌘ Engage in Washington Street rehabilitation planning process
- ⌘ Explore integrating bike lane conditions into criteria for street repair schedule
- ⌘ Coalition building
- ⌘ Coordinate with staff to enhance [BrookOnline](#) to include categories for reporting bike-related issues

Other identified 2020-2021 priorities

Lower rank 2020

- 🚲 Safe routes to Lincoln & Pierce
- 🚲 School Street improvement recommendations
- 🚲 South Brookline access
- 🚲 Floating bus stop pilot
- 🚲 Bike lane pilot for 2020 NACTO conference ([now 2022](#))
- 🚲 20 mph speed limit
- 🚲 Bike racks / electric receptacles
- 🚲 Bike traffic signals

Ongoing 2020

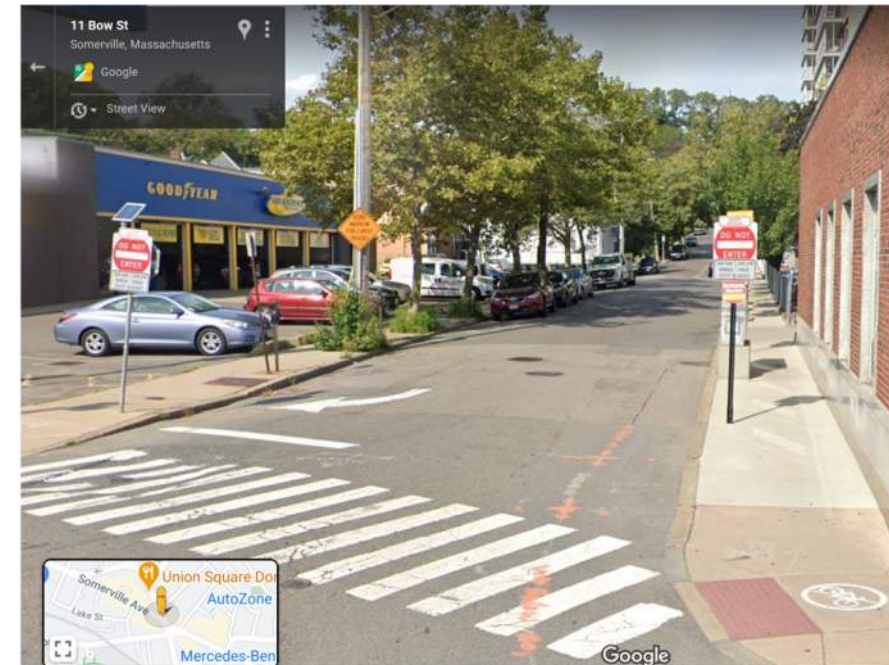
- 🚲 Bike counts
- 🚲 Green Routes Plan update

Chair interests 2021

- 🚲 Shared spaces
- 🚲 Items in today's agenda
- 🚲 End-marked contraflow



Building on the success of the Shared Streets and Spaces initiative first launched during the summer of 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation is now extending the program to help municipalities address the particular challenges of winter amid the ongoing public health crisis. Shared Winter Streets and Spaces will provide cities and towns with grants as small as \$5,000 and as large as \$500,000 to improve plazas, sidewalks, curbs, streets, parking areas, and other public spaces in support of public health, safe mobility, and renewed commerce.



Initiatives needing champions

🚲 Pamphlet

🚲 Website


🚲 Twitter

🚲 Green Routes Plan

🚲 Committee/community liaisons

End-marked contraflow

Green Routes Plan:

-  One-Way Streets with end-marked bike contraflow: One-way streets often offer cyclists quiet connections or routes around busy streets and intersections. In northern Europe, cyclists are permitted to bike against the one-way flow of traffic on low volume one-way streets without the formality of a painted lane. Signs are used at the beginning and end of the street: on the “no entry” end, an additional sign is added - “Except bicycles.” On the other end, a sign is added to alert drivers to “Expect two-way bicycle traffic.”

[EU PRESTO](#) (Promoting Cycling for Everyone as a Daily Transport Mode) initiative:

- Frequent one-way streets strongly reduce the quality of the cycling network, which becomes less cohesive, less direct, less comfortable, less safe and overall less attractive. They risk to discourage cycling, or to incite cyclists to drive illegally against the flow. It is therefore strongly recommended to exempt cyclists from one-way restrictions as a general principle. This is nearly always possible, as long as there is sufficient room to allow a car and a cyclist to cross safely.
- Contra-flow cycling can be implemented as mixed traffic or with a cycle lane. In most cases, contra-flow cycling can be organized without any special provision as mixed traffic. This is possible at low speeds, up to 30 km/h (19 mph) actual speed in the built-up area. In narrow city streets, this may correspond to a speed limit of 50 km/h (31 mph), since cars will slow down when crossing a cyclist. Additional calming measures may be needed. Outside the built-up area, contra-flow cycling can be considered up to 60 km/h (37 mph).

2021 priorities open discussion

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