

Manchester Bike & Pedestrian Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 13, 2023

Location: Hybrid, Town Hall Room 5

In Attendance: David Saunders, Co-Chair, Dana Vermilye, Co-Chair, Sue Centner, Jay Dibiaso, Brian Frey, Joe Beggan, Ryan Chamberlain, and Terry Cowman

Also in Attendance: Todd Fitzgerald, Police Chief; Galen Mook, MassBIKE; Jake Munroe, manager Riverside Cycle

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

- 1) Introduction of eBikes and eTransporter discussion, lead by Dana Vermilye
- 2) Experience as a user, educator, and parent by David Saunders
 - a. Reduced auto use by 75%
 - b. Great interest at school in eBikes and bike busses
 - c. Enables and encourages use by entire family
- 3) Perspective on eBikes from bike retailer, Jake Munro
 - a. eBike sales are rapidly increasing – as much as 50% of bikes sold by 2025
 - b. enable cycling in communities not widely represented for a wider range of purposes than do race or mountain bikes
 - c. 3 classes of eBikes from pedal assist with no throttle, throttle to 20mph, and throttle to 28mph
 - d. Major bike brands and other manufacturers offer battery and frame certified options; other types without pedal assist and offering higher speeds are available without certification or warranty. These may not qualify as eBikes and represent significant safety issues due to potentially poor construction and higher speeds
 - e. Safety instruction, test rides, helmets appropriate to the eBike available at Riverside
- 4) Issues of safety and regulation, Chief Fitzgerald
 - a. Professional interest in eBikes for department – offer speed and flexibility to department
 - b. Class 1 and 2 eBikes regulated as bikes; no regulation of class 3 at this time.
 - c. See issues similar to regular bikes and vehicles with regard to riding on sidewalks, stopping at posted signs, yielding, etc.
 - d. Accident rates are currently very low though eBikes and eTransporters are relatively new to town; source of complaints – sidewalk and erratic riding
 - e. Education in schools and of parents needed, especially on the on-line, non-certified machines
- 5) Local, State, and National considerations, Galen Mook
 - a. eBikes are gaining in popularity, are accepted by cycling community, and are bringing more people to biking as a result
 - b. State regulations are catching up with technology and are incomplete as vehicle types, speeds, and battery technology evolves.
 - c. Next big thing may be rebates for purchase of eBikes and eTransporters, similar to eCars

- d. As usage increases, so does demand for infrastructure improvements that benefit all users of the roadways
 - e. Important to establishing a mode shift - getting people out of cars – for health and safety of population and planet
- 6) Discussion of crosswalk on Beach Street
 - a. Options for placement and issues for each
 - b. Recommendation for Reed location
 - c. Summary to be written and circulated for submittal to Select Board
 - 7) Review of logo design
 - a. General approval of colors used but not design elements
 - b. Brian to identify design firm and get estimates
 - 8) Speed proposals reviewed by and comments incorporated from MassDOT
 - a. Use the MBTS application as the template for other communities to follow
 - b. Will be first proposal received by the state
 - c. Joe Beggan will present to the Select Board for approval on 9/18/23
 - 9) Minutes of August 17, 2023, approved by vote
 - 10) Set next meeting – 10/19/23 at 6:30PM as hybrid

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM

Submitted by: Terry Cowman, on behalf of Manchester Bike & Pedestrian Committee
Approved by Vote of Committee 10/19/23