

WalkBike Springfield April 11, 2024 Meeting Notes

2024/25 Springfield Paving List

We discussed the possibilities for “Complete Street” implementation of the arterials on the list. See **attached** sheet for details.

Traffic Commission & Speed Limit Changes

At the April 4, 2024, the Commission were asked by the McKnight neighborhood for the third meeting in a row, to reduce the posted speed limit on Worthington, St. James, and Bay streets which transverse this totally residential neighborhood from 30 mph (the previous default limit) to the new default limit of 25 mph. Just promoting going slower wasn't enough of reason and because the driver was not at fault for the 2023 pedestrian death at Worthington and Bowdoin, the Commission resisted. They agreed to collect existing speed data with an electronic sign board is placed temporarily on Bay St. The request is to be continued. The representative from the Police Dept, Lt, Cook actually commented that “speeding is a complaint everywhere in Springfield” but also indicated that he felt the pedestrian was at fault in all of Springfield's 2023 pedestrian fatalities.

In other words, the Traffic Commission is not going to be how Springfield takes steps to not be the deadliest city in Massachusetts for pedestrians..

Pedestrian Fatalities Press

WBS press release (attached) was sent with the release of the [WalkMassachusetts 2023 Crash Report](#) on March 29. We received coverage in The Republican/MassLive and WWLP. We discussed the need to humanized the fatalities. We agreed to create yard signs like the one on State St. for Gayle Ball for others who we can identify. We will seek help from the MassLive reporters who seem to have been able to get the identify of victims

Advocacy: City Council

Councilor Malo Brown, chair of the Maintenance & Development Subcommittee, agreed to schedule a meeting for WBS to lead a discussion about slowing vehicles in Springfield, hopefully during the last week of April.

The Wayfinders Advocates hosted Councilor Jose Delgado at their April 4 meeting and discussed the recently released WalkMassachusetts Crash Report that reported Springfield as having the most pedestrian fatalities per our population than any other community in Massachusetts He indicated a willingness to help with addressing the high number of Springfield's vehicle fatalities.

Also, we are pursuing scheduling a meeting with Councilor Kateri Walsh who has been the Council representative to the Traffic Commission for many years. The Council authorized the Traffic Commission, so it could change its charge and composition.

25th Bike Month - May 2024

WBS will once again lead the Mural Ride: 1 PM on Sunday, May 19. Other communities host breakfast rides, so we are pursuing setting up a Bike Valet option (MassBike provided a “how to” and has the equipment) for the World’s Largest Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, May 18.

Updates:

Iron Man Volunteering June 9. We need 10 volunteers to register to get the grant as last year. The process to register depends on if you are in their system already or not. Instructions below.

Bike/Skate Park – still awaiting for City to finalize contract with Pilar Design

Valley Bike Restarting – City of Northampton is the lead for selecting a new contractor and is currently finalizing the contract. Bikes expected to be returned soon.

Maple & Union Study Community Meeting - April 16 - opportunity to advocate for making Maple Street only one lane in each direction (plus turning lanes) from State St. to Central St.

NEXT MEETING: May 9, 2024

Springfield Ironman Volunteering Sign-Up Instructions

Go to <https://ironman.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=76026>

If you volunteered last year, you may be sent directly to Step #4

1. input email
2. Fill out volunteer info, sign waiver and agreement (this is the area that has the group option)
3. Proceed through background screening, once this is done you will be on a page to select where you want to volunteer.
4. Use password: **walk** in the top left corner of page, hit enter and the swim start shift shows up
5. Select shift
6. Press submit to volunteer to conclude registration.
7. Email [Jim Gurzenski](mailto:Jim.Gurzenski@ironmanvolunteerlocal.com) to let him know you’ve registered.