

Introductions

-This was our **first hybrid meeting**, so we did a brief round of introductions to welcome first-time attendees. We look forward to offering this again (via Google Meet) in the future to improve accessibility for our members!

City Council/Committee Updates

-Our **new City Council** was sworn in on 1/1/2024. Thank you to all of the councillors for their hard work!

-**Councillor Jeff Cohen (Ward 5)** will be replacing Councillor Conrad Prosniewski as the new City Council Liaison to the Traffic and Parking Commission. Councillor Cohen was regrettably unable to attend today's SWAG meeting, but he has been very supportive of SWAG in the past, and we welcome him into this new role.

-**Traffic and Parking Commission** - we have one member on this commission (Erin Turowski).

-**Bicycling and Shared Path Advisory Committee** - we have two members on this committee (Joshua Nagle and Catherine Seiferth).

-There are several **vacancies on Salem's city boards and commissions** that align tangentially with SWAG's advocacy efforts. These include the Bicycling and Shared Path Advisory Committee, the Design Review Board (two vacancies), the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Conservation Commission, among others. Please see https://www.salemma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif7986/f/uploads/board_vacancies_january_4.pdf for more information and a complete listing of vacant positions.

Projects/Focus Areas around Salem

-**Congress/Ward Streets** - traffic calming project/bump-outs paused for winter, will resume in spring 2024

-**Fort Avenue/Columbus Square (Winter Island)** - traffic calming/shared path project in progress 12/2023

-**North Street corridor** - signal upgrades project in progress 12/2023

-**Washington/Harbor Streets (near Habanero)** - stop sign being added near crosswalk on Harbor Street

-**Lafayette/Peabody Streets (Wendy's)** - poor crosswalk visibility, frequent accidents. Daylighting? Flashers?

-**Canal/Washington Streets** - recent pedestrian incident (near miss, fortunately), lots of other incidents on SeeClickFix, could consider for no turn on red ("NTOR" - pedestrian-only phase at light)

Outreach/Involvement/Action Issues

-Salem PD promised increased traffic enforcement following pedestrian death at **Jefferson/Willson** 4/2023 - EET to email police to see what has transpired, any updated safety/enforcement statistics, etc. [post-script - email sent 1/9/2024 by EET, will report at next meeting]

-Crowdsourced "enforcement" - continue to use **SeeClickFix and police non-emergency line [(978) 744-1212]** to report accessibility issues - vehicles parked in bike lanes/double-parked, failure to remove snow, etc. Reminder that property owners and businesses are required to clear public sidewalks within 6 hours of the end of snowfall (or by noon the next day, if snowfall ceases overnight) and can be fined for failure to do so.

-**No Turn on Red (NTOR)** - continued support of NTOR for certain intersections to improve safe pedestrian crossings, especially those intersections with a pedestrian-only crossing phase (as supported by Boston's new [2023 signal design policy](#), Sec 5.5.1.c). Comments in support of this initiative could be given during the public comment period prior to regular City Council meetings - **member comments appreciated!**

-**Automated enforcement cameras** - would assist in implementing NTOR and other traffic safety laws - red light running, blocking the box, etc. Limited scope in MA as part of pilot program ([HB 3393](#)). **Manny Cruz is co-sponsoring this bill - if you support it, let him and our other state legislators know.** [post-script - ET emailed Manny Cruz for updates on 1/9/2024, will report at next meeting]

-**Bike Bus** - has been successful for Saltonstall (coordinated by Christine Madore), could expand to Collins MS, others. Looking into interest/feasibility for other local schools - will update at next meeting.

Next Meeting

Our next general meeting will be **Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 10:00 am at Habanero Cycles**. Thank you again to Cat and Wendy for providing this meeting space for us!