



ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

3:00 PM

Sullivan Chamber
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

The Ordinance Committee will hold a public hearing to discuss amendments to the Cycling Safety Ordinance (CSO), as amended in full Council on October 21, 2024.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Burhan Azeem	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:01 PM
Marc C. McGovern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Patricia Nolan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sumbul Siddiqui	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:14 PM
Paul F. Toner	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ayesha M. Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:06 PM
Catherine Zusy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
E. Denise Simmons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:35 PM

A public meeting of the Cambridge City Council’s Ordinance Committee was held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. The meeting was Called to Order at 3:00 p.m. by the Co-Chair, Vice Mayor McGovern. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor, the City is authorized to use remote participation. This public meeting was hybrid, allowing participation in person, in the Sullivan Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA and by remote participation via Zoom.

At the request of the Co-Chair, Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Absent*

Vice Mayor McGovern – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Nolan – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Councillor Siddiqui – Present/Remote

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Absent*

Councillor Toner – Present/Remote

Councillor Wilson – Absent*

Councillor Zusy – Present/In Sullivan Chamber

Mayor Simmons – Absent*

Present – 5, Absent – 4. Quorum established.

*Councillor Azeem was present and remote at 3:01p.m.

*Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler was present and remote at 3:14p.m.

*Councillor Wilson was marked present and remote at 3:06p.m. and was in the Sullivan Chamber at 3:31p.m.

*Mayor Simmons was present in the Sullivan Chamber at 3:35p.m.

Co-Chair McGovern offered opening remarks and noted that the Call of the meeting was to discuss amendments to the Cycling Safety Ordinance (CSO), as amended in full City Council on October 21, 2024. Present at the meeting were Brooke McKenna, Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Commissioner, Jeff Parenti, Assistant Commissioner for Street Management/Director of Traffic and Parking, Stephanie Groll, PTDM Officer, and Megan Bayer, City Solicitor.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Brooke McKenna who gave a presentation titled “Cycling Safety Ordinance”. The presentation was provided in advance of the meeting and included in the Agenda Packet. The presentation provided an overview on the proposed amendments, which were a new CSO Deadline which would change to November 1, 2026, separated bike lane projects on Maine Street, Cambridge Street, and Broadway will start installation after the PTDM ordinance amendments are passed in 2025, and “School Bus Stops” added to the definition of Public Transportation.

Co-Chair McGovern opened Public Comment.

Nicolas Fernandez, 18 George Street, Cambridge, MA, spoke in favor of bike lanes and against delays to the CSO.

Drew Nelson, 431 Shawmut Avenue, urged the Council for immediate implementation of the CSO and safe infrastructure for bicyclists.

Ian McGoldrick, 100 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA, offered comments that were in favor of the CSO.

Casey Szilagyi, 20 Child Street, Cambridge, MA, urged the Council to pass the CSO with no delays.

Norman Daoust, 157 Raymond Street, Cambridge, MA, spoke against delays to the CSO and offered support to proposed changes.

Salvador Herrera, 6 Porter Road, Cambridge, MA, spoke in favor of no more delays and immediate implementation of the CSO.

Brenton Jaffe, 4 E 65th Street, shared concerns about more bike lanes creating more traffic for motor vehicles.

Jason Alves, 544 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA, Executive Director of the East Cambridge Business Association, 544 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA, thanked the Committee for considering changes and provided suggestions towards the Grand Junction area.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Councillor Nolan who made a motion to close public comment.

Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Yes

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Yes

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes

Councillor Toner – Yes

Councillor Wilson – Yes

Councillor Zusy – Yes

Mayor Simmons – Absent

Yes – 8, No – 0, Absent – 1. Motion passed.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Councillor Nolan who shared support for the proposed changes. Councillor Nolan recognized that it can be disappointing to people that the deadline needs to be pushed back, but stressed the importance of making sure changes are done properly. Councillor Nolan asked if the changes to the school bus stops will include using the same locations as current public transportation or if there will be additional stops. Brooke McKenna responded by sharing that will all depend on where the public transit stops are and where school bus stops will need to be, noting that it will be important to ensure school busses have access to the curbs in front of schools. Brooke McKenna added that with the changes to school bus stops, the bus lanes and bike lanes will continue to have shared use.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Councillor Zusy who thanked City staff for their work and asked how they process the recommendations, suggestions, and concerns that are brought forward through the feedback from public engagement. Brooke McKenna shared how the City responds to feedback that is received, pointing out

that when projects are ongoing it is easier to take suggestions into account. Brooke McKenna also explained which types of concerns are easily addressable. Councillor Zusy highlighted the importance of revising and improving projects when possible while also pointing out how important it is to be sensitive towards small businesses when it comes to parking spaces and loading zones, noting that it is critical with planning.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler who had a follow up question regarding the school bus stop language. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler asked if the intent of the language was for the school bus stops to be in front of schools, or if those stops would be anywhere in the City. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler also asked if there was any information available on how many gaps there would be in the protected bike lanes. Brooke McKenna responded by noting that the changes will be primarily for stops adjacent to schools, but there could be different scenarios when a school bus stop would need to be treated the same at a different location in the City.

Co-Chair McGovern explained further how it would be challenging to reach the current deadline and shared support for moving forward with the new deadline. Co-Chair McGovern pointed out that proposed changes to PTDM were passed to a second reading in full Council unanimously on December 2, 2024, and that it can be ordained on or after December 23, 2024, noting that he does not see the PTDM delaying the CSO deadline. Co-Chair McGovern pointed out the suggestions that were made during public comment regarding the Grand Junction and noted that it is not something that will go into the ordinance today because there needs to be more discussion. Brooke McKenna shared that she could bring back the comments that were made today regarding the Grand Junction back to CDD. Co-Chair McGovern stressed that the Council would be in support of moving forward with changes made to the Grand Junction.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Councillor Wilson who shared her appreciation for the update from Traffic and Parking and for those who spoke during public comment. Councillor Wilson highlighted how important it is to make sure the network of bike lanes move efficiently and safely throughout the city. Councillor Wilson shared her support for having more discussion on the Grand Junction. Councillor Wilson stressed how important it is to be engaged with the community throughout this entire process. Brooke McKenna shared information on the working group and pointed out that there will be a site walk in two weeks. Brooke McKenna also shared how the City receives and uses feedback from the community during early phases of projects and what can and cannot have flexibility to change. Councillor Wilson asked if more information could be shared about busy intersections along Cambridge Street and if any changes will be made to them. Brooke McKenna shared that they will be addressed through the design process and Jeff Parenti provided additional information on how they are addressing busy intersections in the short term.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Councillor Zusy who asked what the process was for choosing new bike routes. Brooke McKenna noted that on the CDD website there is information on the bike plan and how the network was developed, pointing out that it is a good resource.

Co-Chair McGovern made a motion to extend the previous CSO deadline from May 1, 2026 to November 1, 2026.

Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Yes

Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Siddiqui – Yes

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes

Councillor Toner – Yes

Councillor Wilson – Yes

Councillor Zusy – Yes

Mayor Simmons – Yes

Yes – 9. Motion passed.

Co-Chair McGovern made a motion to approve the separated bike lanes projects on Main Street, Cambridge Street, and Broadway to start installation after the PTDM Ordinance amendments are passed in 2025.

Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Yes
Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes
Councillor Nolan – Yes
Councillor Siddiqui – Yes
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes
Councillor Toner – Yes
Councillor Wilson – Yes
Councillor Zusy – Yes
Mayor Simmons – Yes

Yes – 9. Motion passed.

Co-Chair McGovern made a motion to approve “School Bus Stops” be added to the definition of public transportation.**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Yes
Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes
Councillor Nolan – Yes
Councillor Siddiqui – Yes
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes
Councillor Toner – Yes
Councillor Wilson – Yes
Councillor Zusy – Yes
Mayor Simmons – Yes

Yes – 9. Motion passed.

Co-Chair McGovern made a motion to forward the CSO as amended to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation to pass to a second reading.**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Yes
Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes
Councillor Nolan – Yes
Councillor Siddiqui – Yes
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes
Councillor Toner – Yes
Councillor Wilson – Yes
Councillor Zusy – Yes
Mayor Simmons – Yes

Yes – 9. Motion passed.

Co-Chair McGovern recognized Councillor Zusy who made a motion to adjourn the meeting.**Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.**

Councillor Azeem – Yes
Vice Mayor McGovern – Yes
Councillor Nolan – Yes
Councillor Siddiqui – Yes
Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Yes
Councillor Toner – Yes
Councillor Wilson – Yes
Councillor Zusy – Yes
Mayor Simmons – Yes

Yes – 9. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:51p.m.

Clerk's Note: The City of Cambridge/22 City View records every City Council meeting and every City Council Committee meeting. This is a permanent record. The video for this meeting can be viewed at: https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/911?view_id=1&redirect=true

A communication was received from Brooke McKenna, Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Commissioner, transmitting a presentation relative to the Cycling Safety Ordinance (CSO).

An Ordinance has been received from City Clerk, relative to proposed amendments to the Cycling Safety Ordinance to extend the deadline associated with the completion of those sections of the ordinance that are required to be completed by May 1, 2026. REFERRED TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL OCTOBER 21, 2024.