

Meeting Minutes

Salem Bicycling & Shared Path Advisory Committee

Wednesday, August 5, 2026 | 6:15 p.m.

City Hall Annex 1st Floor Meeting Room & Via Remote Participation

Members Present: John Wathne (Chair), Josiah Guthrie (Vice Chair), Annie Wolf, Emmylou Manwill, Matt Caruso, Craig Bilodeau, Alexa Ogno

Members Absent: Kevin Jordan, Josh Nagle

Also Present: Tom Devine, Senior Planner

Call Meeting to Order

Wathne calls the meeting to order.

Public Comment

Wathe opens the meeting to public comment and there is none.

Discussion of Bike Master Plan

Guthrie leads a discussion about the future direction of the committee, asking who the group wants to connect with and what it wants to be known for. Members discuss opportunities to build momentum and visibility for cycling in the community through expanded social media outreach, partnerships with organizations such as the Police Department and Parks & Recreation, participation in events like Notch rides, and initiatives such as valet bike parking and group rides. The committee also considers whether it should be known for reviewing plans and revisits the mission statement on its webpage as part of a broader conversation about goals and priorities.

The group discusses the possibility of raising funds and whether donations should be managed through the City or a nonprofit organization. Members note that any expansion of activities requires sufficient volunteer capacity and support. Several resources and potential partners are identified, including Kylie Sullivan, who can provide insight into the Main Streets volunteer model. Wolf has experience with nonprofit management. Manwill notes that the committee has allies who may be able to support future efforts. Councilor Holappa shares examples from Beverly's slow rides program and discusses strategic planning processes used by businesses, as well as the evolution of Mack Park Food Park from a city initiative into a nonprofit organization.

Discussion of forming a nonprofit is tabled until the next meeting. Guthrie agrees to gather additional information based on his experience with the Scholarship Committee. The committee agrees to continue discussing organizational goals, partnerships, and

nonprofit options at future meetings. Caruso agrees to invite Kylie Sullivan to attend a future meeting, and Devine will look into how the city works with and supports associated non-profits.

Discussion of Proposed Committee Logo

The group tables this item to the next meeting.

Complete Streets Prioritization Plan Follow Up

The group confirms their comment letter is the final version and notes that their comments have been incorporated into the City's online map created for the plan.

Bike Share Program Updates

Devine reports that he will be reaching out to neighboring communities to discuss expansion. The group discusses the lack of a Bluebikes station at the train station. Devine reports that the City is seeking approval from the MBTA. The group suggests communicating to the MBTA that there is urgency to get it in place before October.

Events

Devine shares information about several upcoming events, including Volt & Vibe, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. along the Salem State University bike path. This requires advance registration. He also highlights the SERC potluck, which takes place on Wednesday, August 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the Willows and requires an RSVP. In addition, Devine notes the upcoming Proctor Street Walk Audit, scheduled for Tuesday, August 25, at 4:30 p.m., with participants meeting at Gallows Hill Park.

Bike Theft in Salem

Manwill expresses interest in improving bicycle security. Councilor Holappa suggests exploring the Project 529 bicycle registration program and notes that information has been shared with the Police Chief. The committee discusses gaps in existing bike parking guidelines, particularly regarding security, and observes that many bicycles are not locked properly. Members consider a public education campaign on proper bike locking techniques and discuss the need to ensure bike racks are securely anchored. The university is identified as a potential partner in supporting bicycle security initiatives. The group suggests adding an option to See-Click-Fix to request a bike rack, the same way there is the option to request a tree planting.

Potential DPW Attendance at Future Meeting

The group discusses how to approach a conversation with the DPW Director if he is to attend a future meeting. Devine remarks that the DPW Director is a dedicated public

servant who deserves respect. The group wishes to continue discussing the matter at the next meeting.

Transportation Commission Update

Ogno states that the Transportation Commission did not meet last month.

Staff Update

Devine reports that the Governor's bill based on the Micromobility Commission's recommendations passed the state Senate and now needs approval by the House of Representatives. It appears that this bill includes all of the recommendations that are within the legislature's authority to enact.

Devine announces that Connor Ryan resigned from the Committee, resulting now in a total of two vacancies.

The group wishes to continue meeting at 6:15pm.

Devine reflects on the recent death of Boston Transportation Planner Louisa Gag.

Meeting Minutes

No draft minutes are available for review.

Adjourn

Bilodeau motions, Guthrie seconds, and all vote in favor to adjourn at 7:54pm.

Approved by the Bicycling & Shared Path Advisory Committee on 10/7/2026.