

**Brookline Bicycle Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 7 PM
4th Floor, Town Hall Conference Room — In Person**

Called to order at 7 pm.

Committee Members Present (entire meeting): Mrudula Donepudi, Jan Preheim, Toby Sillman, Jonathon Zoll, Scott McCullough

Committee Members Absent: Bob Miller, Anthony Ishak, Todd MacFadden

August 19 BAC Meeting — Meeting Summary

Opening and Recognition of Scott McCullough

Chair Jan Preheim opened the meeting by expressing the committee's gratitude to **Scott McCullough for his service to the BAC**. Scott will be moving to Somerville in September.

The Chair then explained the process for the evening's discussion. The primary task was to review and make decisions on the ten-page Harvard Street memorandum that had been drafted at the committee's request.

Because of the amount of material to be covered, each BAC member would receive equal floor time. Members would be called on alphabetically and then in reverse alphabetical order as the discussion proceeded. If time permitted after BAC members had been heard, friends of the committee attending the meeting would also have an opportunity to contribute.

Brookline Avenue

Rob Guptill had agreed to give the BAC an update on the planned **Brookline Avenue mill-and-overlay project**. The BAC considered the discussion timely because staff are developing plans for repaving Brookline Avenue, creating an opportunity to consider bicycle safety as part of that work.

Staff requested the item be removed from the agenda at the Transportation Board Chair's request; the BAC retained the item and proceeded with discussion.

Brookline Avenue had been independently placed on the BAC's posted agenda. Given the question raised about the respective roles of the Transportation Board and BAC in determining BAC agenda items, the Chair asked staff to seek guidance from Town Counsel; no response from Town Counsel had been received by the meeting date.

The BAC requests that future concerns regarding BAC agenda items be communicated directly between the Transportation Board Chair and the BAC Chair.

Brookline Avenue — Next Steps

The BAC agreed that **Brookline Avenue warrants independent study**.

A subcommittee was established to examine the corridor further. The subcommittee will include:

- Jan Preheim
- Toby Sillman
- Jonathon Zoll

The subcommittee's meeting is scheduled for **September 2**.

In addition, friends of the committee volunteered to conduct field observations of Brookline Avenue. They will photograph and observe the corridor and consider how it is currently used by bicyclists, pedestrians, and motor vehicles.

Their observations will be brought to the September 2 subcommittee meeting to inform the discussion.

Harvard Street Memorandum Review

The committee then turned to the **ten-page Harvard Street memorandum**, which had been drafted at the committee's request.

Because the memorandum contained numerous recommendations and background information, the Chair identified **18 specific points** for committee review to confirm that the draft accurately reflected the committee's positions.

The committee worked systematically through all 18 points. The review took close to two hours.

Changes to the Harvard Street Memorandum

During its review, the committee made two substantive changes.

First, the committee removed the recommendation to **increase police funding**, determining that a recommendation concerning police funding was outside the BAC's jurisdiction.

Second, the committee removed a proposed specific timeline for implementing short-term recommendations. Instead, the memorandum will leave decisions about the appropriate implementation timeline to the Transportation Board and staff.

The committee otherwise agreed with the substance of the memorandum.

Members also requested several **minor wording changes** intended to improve clarity without changing the substance of the recommendations.

The Chair was asked to revise the memorandum to incorporate the agreed-upon wording changes and the two substantive deletions.

Parking Impact Concept Plan

The committee also reviewed a concept plan developed by **Maanav Prakash** to help the BAC understand the potential parking impacts associated with different recommendations for Harvard Street.

The BAC used the 15-page concept plan during its discussion to understand the potential parking loss associated with individual recommendations and to help determine appropriate language for the memorandum.

The committee agreed that the concept plan was a valuable analytical and communication tool and supported retaining it with the BAC's materials.

The BAC believes that potential parking loss should be presented **transparently, reasonably, and in a way that is readily understandable** to the BAC, the Transportation Board, and members of the public.

The concept plan allows readers to understand the potential parking implications associated with different recommendations rather than considering bicycle improvements without understanding their parking tradeoffs.

Purpose of the Concept Plan

Importantly, **the concept plan itself is not a plan being recommended by the BAC.**

It is an analytical tool intended to help the BAC, the Transportation Board, and the public understand the potential parking impacts associated with different recommendations.

The BAC appreciates **Maanav Prakash's extensive work** developing the concept plan and believes it provides valuable context for evaluating the committee's Harvard Street recommendations.

Alternative Harvard Street Memorandum

Toby Sillman brought an alternative Harvard Street memorandum to the meeting that included text and two images from CAD drawings.

The alternative memorandum was not on the agenda, had not been developed as part of the committee's assigned work on the Harvard Street memorandum, and had not been submitted in time to be included with the meeting materials available for advance review.

The alternative memorandum was therefore **not taken up for consideration at the August 19 meeting**.

The committee instead continued its review of the ten-page Harvard Street memorandum that had been prepared through the committee's established process.

Completion of Review and Next Steps

At 9:00 p.m., the Chair requested a 15-minute extension to allow the committee to complete its review of the Harvard Street memorandum. The committee agreed.

The review was completed by approximately 9:10 p.m. By the conclusion of the meeting, the committee had reviewed all 18 decision points in the memorandum. The committee directed the Chair to remove two recommendations and make several minor wording changes reflecting the discussion.

No final vote was taken on the memorandum as a whole. The Chair will incorporate the changes directed by the committee and transmit the revised memorandum to the Transportation Board in advance of its meeting to provide adequate review time. The revised memorandum will be placed before the BAC at its next meeting for formal action.

The Chair expressed her appreciation for the substantial work committee members did to carefully review the memorandum and reach decisions on its recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at approximately **9:10 p.m.**