

Safe bike way from Roger Williams University to the East Bay Bike Path.

Prepared for Vice President John King

Chris Menton November 13, 2018

The absence of a safe way to bike or walk the 2 or so miles from Roger Williams University to Bristol Center is counter to the interests of both the town and the University. Students have made inquiries regarding the introduction of a bike share program on campus. Wisely the University has decided to take steps to improve the safety of biking to and from campus before looking into share bikes.

The introduction of a bike share program on campus looms. Jump Bike a subsidiary of Uber is currently operating in Providence. The bright red Jump Bikes are becoming more common sites on the East Bay Bike Path. Jump Bikes are pedal assist, meaning there is a battery and electric motor built in. The motor only engages in response to peddling. This modification extends the range the bike can travel but does not increase the physical exertion for riders. It seems only a matter of time before Jump Bikes appear on campus.

The condition of bike access to campus is wanting. Research provides evidence of increase bike usage in general when bike share programs are activated. These two factors pose a higher level of urgency in our efforts to develop a safe way for non-motorized access to campus.

In support of that effort and in response to Vice President John King's request this document has been prepared. It includes a list of some of the stakeholders of this venture. Town officials, neighbors, state officials, and advocates. I have been in contact with most of the people on the list. All have been receptive to the general idea of improving bike safety in the town.

Moving this effort forward is uncharted territory. There are many moving parts in developing new egress for human power transportation modes. In principle many stakeholders are behind this idea. The devil of course is in the details. I hesitate to say this, but I think we need a task force. An entity that can have this project as its mission. As with any project there will be hurdles and workarounds as well as other planning tasks.

This is a preliminary prospectus. The only truly must have is a safe way to cross Metacom Avenue.

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List omitted

Because crossing State route 136 is a major issue and some tentative plans would need RIDOT to come to fruition. If the BUILD grant program is reauthorized for the FHSA in the 2019 federal budget a grant for supporting this project including an on call traffic light at Woodlawn and route 136.

Possible route suggested.

There is no sufficiently safe way to bike or walk from Bristol town center to Roger Williams University. The University, the Town and some neighbors are starting to work together to get a safe way to town.

The campus is the logical point for planning for the end point in Bristol is far less isolated and more bike friendly. The location of the campus is the Southeast corner of the Bristol Peninsular. Only exits from the campus are to state routes, busy and san sidewalks. This makes the campus only accessible via bus, shuttle or car.

Many stake holders are amenable to developing a safe bike/walk way off the campus and to Bristol Center. A narrative and highlighted map was drafted by Walter Burke and Chris Menton, is includes in this overview.

This is a write up on a step by step Safe way to town:

These are proposed safe ways that are currently inaccessible for lack of easements.

At the far north east end of the campus is the US Sail.

Taking a right in front of the US Sail leads to a farm field. Easement needed

Farm fields have path along their edges. Take a left at the start of the field heading north

At the end of the field take a short path way to the next farm field edge path and continue north.

Arrive at a gate at Griswold Ave. Turn right onto Griswold Ave.

Prior to the route 136 merge bare right onto a parallel path at the front of a narrow agricultural lot (Easement needed) heading north through Condominium easement to Seal Island Rd.

Left on Seal Island Rd to Light Crossing of Route 136.

Straight across to Woodlawn Ave.

Left into the Cemetery to farm edge path west to woods

Woods will needing easement and path construction

Easements are being worked on in the area for Treatment plant. Biggy backing a bike way on the construction path is a thought

Path to connect to bike path parallel to Plant road but on the outside of the fence. Many a bike way parallels sewerage treatment

Right Wood Street left on Burton right onto High Street with red, white and blue Share arrows painted on street.

From High Street

Left on Church to access Bristol

Left on State to access Bristol

Left on Franklin to access East Bay Bike Path