



TOWN OF ARLINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING and
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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MEMORANDUM

To: Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager
Cc: Jennifer Raitt, Director of Planning & Community Development
From: Daniel Amstutz, Senior Transportation Planner
Date: August 27, 2020
RE: Proposed Locations for Two Bluebikes Stations Along the Minuteman Bikeway

At the August 17 Select Board meeting, the Board approved four out of six locations for Bluebikes stations in Arlington as part of the Bluebikes regional bike share system expansion. The two remaining proposed locations, Linwood Street at Minuteman Bikeway, and Minuteman Bikeway at Thorndike Field, have been further vetted for site suitability, property impacts and traffic safety. On the next two pages of this memo are the staff recommended locations for the remaining two bike share stations being requested for approval and endorsement. If approved these stations are expected to be installed in September.

Linwood Street at Minuteman Bikeway

Town staff have investigated multiple options for siting a bike share station at this location, including on-street and off-street. Off-street locations here require the construction of new hardscape to accommodate the bike share station without blocking pedestrian traffic, but may have conflicts with newly-planted trees and public memorials, and would require further review by the Conservation Commission as a result of encroachment onto Spy Pond Park or Scannell Field property. Therefore, an on-street location is proposed for this station.

The accompanying diagram (Figure 1) shows the Bluebikes station will be placed on the south side of Linwood Street, approximately 20' east of the beginning of the cul-de-sac, and 20' west of Hamilton Road. This buffer from the cul-de-sac and Hamilton Road will ensure there is sufficient sight distance and maneuvering space for drivers to get around the bike share station and pull to the side if necessary, as the road would be narrowed to approximately 18'. This proposal would also require the removal of three parking spaces on Linwood Street. This station may not be able to function over the winter as it is on-street.

Figure 1

Linwood St at Minuteman Bikeway



Minuteman Bikeway at Magnolia Park

This station was originally envisioned to be closer to Thorndike Dog Park and Route 2 along the Minuteman Bikeway. However, a location in that spot would require an agreement from the MBTA because it would be within the old railroad right-of-way on which the Bikeway sits. The timeline for getting agreement from the MBTA is unknown. Town staff investigated alternative locations for this station and discovered a triangular-shaped town-owned property in between the right-of-way for the Bikeway and Magnolia Field. The proposed bike share location is to be within this town-owned property.

Figure 2 shows the proposed location of the bike share station on town-owned property. The yellow polygons represent Bikeway right-of-way or open space. The station is located next to a narrow paved path the leads between the Bikeway and a path that curves along the edge of Magnolia Field. This paved path is too small for a bike share station and as a result a hardscape surface would need to be constructed. The Department of Public Works has confirmed they have the staff and material capacity to construct an asphalt pad 33' long by 6' wide where the station will be placed. The pad will be constructed to the same specifications as a town sidewalk to ensure proper slopes and foundation. The location of the station would also cut off a worn dirt path that appears to operate as an alternative or shortcut between two parts of the Bikeway (the path can be easily seen in the satellite image going north to south). This station will be able to function over the winter because it is off-street.

Figure 2

Thorndike/Magnolia Field at Minuteman Bikeway

