



TOWN OF ARLINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING and
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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MEMORANDUM

To: Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager

CC: Jennifer Raitt, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development
Michael Rademacher, Director, Department of Public Works
Joe Connelly, Director, Recreation Department

From: Daniel Amstutz, Senior Transportation Planner, Department of Planning and Community Development

Date: October 21, 2021

RE: Off-Street Relocation of Bluebikes stations at Linwood Street @ Minuteman Bikeway and Railroad Lot @ Minuteman Bikeway

Two Bluebikes stations along the Minuteman Bikeway are currently on-street. These are the Linwood Street @ Minuteman Bikeway station (on Linwood Street next to Scannell Field) and the Railroad Lot @ Minuteman Bikeway station (in the Town-owned Railroad Public Parking Lot near Uncle Sam Plaza). The Select Board approved the location of these stations as part of the rollout of the Bluebikes program in Arlington in summer 2020. These two stations are proposed to relocate to off-street locations close to their current locations. The Linwood Street station would be moved approximately 20' to a newly-constructed asphalt sidewalk behind the existing sidewalk along Scannell Field. The Railroad Lot station would be moved approximately 50' onto an existing brick sidewalk adjacent to the building at 633-641 Mass Ave. The Parks & Recreation Commission and the Recreation Department have approved the relocation of the Linwood Street station. The relocation of the Railroad Lot station requires Board action.

There are several benefits to relocating these Bluebikes stations off-street:

- Moving the stations off-street will allow them to operate year-round.
- The stations will no longer need to be put into winter storage by Bluebikes staff, saving the Town \$2,500 per station in storage fees (\$5,000 total). In addition, Bluebikes is currently waiving station relocation fees for stations being moved for the purpose of allowing them to operate year-round.
- The off-street locations proposed are in close proximity to their current locations. These two stations represent over 50% of Arlington Bluebikes monthly ridership and are the most popular in the Arlington system (see Table 1 on next page); thus, it is best to keep them where they are successful and putting them off-street allows them to continue generating trips through the winter.

- Moving the stations off-street will free up on-street parking spaces on Linwood Street and the Railroad Lot that were displaced by the station installations (approximately two spaces on Linwood Street and two spaces in the Railroad Lot).

As noted above, the Linwood Street and Railroad Bluebikes stations account for a high percentage of all starting and ending trips at Arlington stations. Table 1 shows the number of starting and ending trips at the six Bluebikes stations in Arlington year-to-date as of October 20, 2021. The stations along the Bikeway are generating the most trips, with the third-highest trips occurring at the Thorndike Field at Minuteman Bikeway station which is already situated off-street.

Table 1: YTD Trips as of 10-20-21			
District	Station Name	Starting Trips	Ending Trips
Arlington	Railroad Lot and Minuteman Bikeway	2,006	2,117
	Linwood St at Minuteman Bikeway	1,941	2,059
	Mass Ave at Grafton St	803	819
	Broadway at Grafton St	507	507
	Thorndike Field at Minuteman Bikeway	1,906	1,841
	Mass Ave at Broadway	940	984
Total Attributed Trips*:			8,215

**Note: Trips are “attributed” to Arlington stations by summing the number of starting and ending trips and dividing by two.*

Town staff have already worked with the Parks & Recreation Commission, Recreation Department, and Department of Public Works to site the Linwood Street Bluebikes station and receive approval. Staff have contacted the businesses and property owner of 633-641 Mass Ave to request feedback and address any concerns about this proposal.

More detail on the proposed station relocations, including diagrams and pictures, are included as a separate file.

Town staff are requesting the Board to approve the relocation of the Railroad Lot @ Minuteman Bikeway Bluebikes station. If approved this station will be relocated by Bluebikes staff before late November, when other on-street stations are removed for winter storage.

I would be glad to discuss this further, should you have any questions about this request.