



## **Bedford Friends of the Minuteman Bikeway**

*Supporting the 5 Biking E's: Encouragement, Education, Enforcement (rules of the road), Engineering (bike paths, bike lanes), and Evaluation*

### **Spring 2019 Newsletter**

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### **Minuteman Bikeway Extension to Concord Update**

The consultant, VHB, will give a presentation to the selectmen and public, Monday at 7 PM in Town Hall. Their report can be viewed at [VHB Minuteman Extension Report](#)

The expected schedule for the 2.2 mile paved 12' wide extension to the Concord Line is:

- 25% Public Hearing Spring 2019
- 75% design development – Summer 2019 to Winter 2019/2020
- Commence ROW Process - Fall 2019
- Environmental Permitting – Winter 2019/2020
- Anticipated Construction - Spring 2022 to Fall 2023

### **March 9, Town Election For Road Commissioners (selectmen)**

This year the Town has an unusually open race for Selectmen with 3 candidates vying for the 2 available seats. Because the Selectmen are the Town's "Road Commissioners" they have enormous impact on how and when bicycle improvements are planned and completed in Town.

Although the Friends of the Minuteman cannot endorse candidates, we do encourage you to study the candidates' positions as they relate to biking and turn out to vote. All the candidates have official campaign websites. Here are bike-related portions from their websites:

Chris Gittins: **Connectivity**

*Bedford grew from a rural to suburban community in the golden age of automobiles. As a result, we are playing catch-up with respect to establishing safe pedestrian and bicycle routes, traffic-calming measures, and other infrastructure changes that will accommodate more public transportation and decrease the volume of cars on our streets. As Selectman, I would actively support the implementation of our comprehensive Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan, and investigating more public transit infrastructure and regional mass transit initiatives.*

Emily Mitchell: **LIVABILITY**

*Seek more opportunities to get around town safely and efficiently, with and without cars, no matter the weather, working in conjunction with the DPW and Transportation Advisory Committee*

Bill Moonan: **Address traffic problems**

*Work with transportation experts and State officials to identify innovative solutions to Bedford's traffic congestion, while expanding alternatives to pollution vehicles.*

## Bike Safety Bills

The State Legislature is considering three road safety bills:

**An Act to reduce traffic fatalities** would ensure basic, necessary traffic regulations to guarantee safety, such as lowering speed limits on state roads, setting a safe passing distance of vulnerable road users of at least three feet, and requiring state-owned and contracted trucks to install side guards and additional mirrors.

### **Hands-Free cell phone use while driving**

**Automated Enforcement Bill** would allow red light cameras and speed cameras to be placed in certain locations. Towns and cities could choose to opt in. Violations would include speeding, failure to stop for a school bus, failure to stop at a red light, and illegal turn on red. When enacted in other states, automated enforcement has reduced speeding and serious crashes. More than 400 U.S. communities in the U.S. use red light cameras, and more than 130 use cameras to enforce speed laws.

We thank MassBike, Livable Streets, Vision Zero, Boston Bicycle Union, and our legislators Ken Gordon and Michael Barrett for their long-time support and advocacy for bike related safety bills.

## Minuteman Bikeway Plowing

If the bike path isn't plowed soon after a snow, it can quickly turn to ice with day thawing and night freezing. This is what happened last week when DPW didn't plow after the small snowfall. A note was sent to the Bedford Bicycle Advisory Committee to address this with their selectman liaison and the DPW. In years past, DPW has done a good job ensuring the bike path is plowed in a timely manner.

