

ABAC Meeting Presentation

09-21-22

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Department of Planning & Community
Development



Items in this Presentation

1. Arlington Heights Minuteman Bikeway Wayfinding Project
2. Minuteman Bikeway CPA Projects – preliminary applications
3. New DPCD Director
4. BLUEbikes and Minuteman Bikeway data update
5. Somerville Streetwise talk – next month



MINUTEMAN BIKEWAY

REGIONAL WAYFINDING SIGNAGE
PHASE 1 DESIGN REPORT
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022



DAWSON ASSOCIATES LLC

Minuteman Bikeway Wayfinding Project



- Project funded through the Regional Economic Development Organization Grant Project (REDO) - \$150,000 for Arlington, Bedford, and Lexington for Bikeway wayfinding (Lexington as lead via Middlesex 3 Coalition)
- Budget covers professional services (Dawson Associates), sign materials, and some installation costs for the three communities
- Economic development is key purpose of this project
- Targets the following areas: Bedford Depot Park, East Lexington Village, and Arlington Heights
- Advances the Wayfinding component of the Minuteman Bikeway Plan (pgs. 33-50) and the proposed corridor-wide project to “Modify and update wayfinding signage along and adjacent to the Bikeway” (see page 112)



Minuteman Bikeway Wayfinding Project

Project Objectives:

- Create a cohesive and signage and wayfinding system that directs Bikeway users to businesses
- Design and install map kiosks near major Bikeway access points in the 3 business districts
- Increase the number of people exiting the Bikeway at the 3 business districts
- Provide greater awareness of the offerings available for Bikeway users in the 3 business districts
- Create wayfinding signage that can be easily updated.

Elements to be included:

- Minuteman Bikeway logo
- Directional signs orienting users toward the business districts
- Icons indicating food and retail
- Distance in miles or travel time by bike or foot

Logo



Typeface Rawlinson

MINUTEMAN BIKEWAY

Typeface Avenir

BUSINESS DISTRICT

Color



Minuteman Bikeway Wayfinding Project

RELEVANT EXAMPLES



IDENTIFICATION

ICON IMAGE

SITE SPECIFIC MESSAGE

ENTRANCE GATEWAY SIGN



MAP KIOSKS



POINTER BLADE SIGN

Minuteman Bikeway Wayfinding Project

SIGN LOCATIONS

**Arlington Heights
Park Ave
Business District**

- Entrance
- Information Kiosk
- Business Directional
- Trail Directional
- Pointer
- Interpretive
- Mile Marker



Minuteman Bikeway Wayfinding Project

DRAFT

WAYFINDING SIGN TYPES

ENTRANCE SIGNS

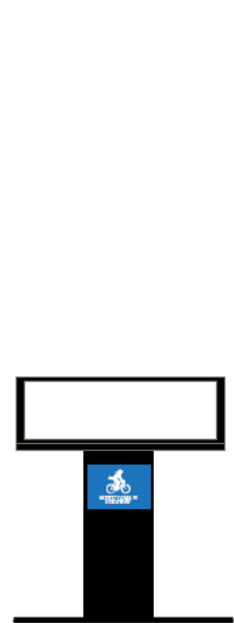


INFORMATION SIGNS



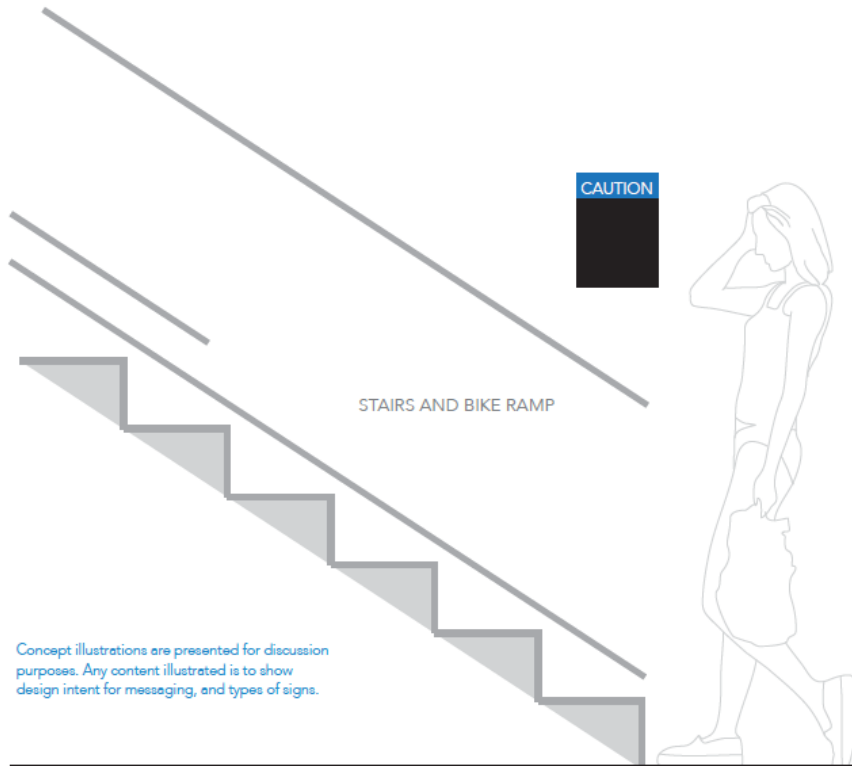
DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS



Minuteman Bikeway Wayfinding Project

INFORMATION KIOSK



WALL MOUNT WITH SHED ROOF KIOSK PROPOSED LOCATION ARLINGTON HEIGHTS



Minuteman Bikeway Wayfinding Project

DRAFT

DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

Wayfinding directional signs for trail users are essential as they give information about the trail environment and enable smooth and coherent use. Moreover, wayfinding content will provide accurate, clear, and quality information at the right time and allow trail users to build a mental map of an area quickly.

The wayfinding directional signage will help improve the user experience and encourages bikeway users to visit nearby, directly impacting the economy of a local business.

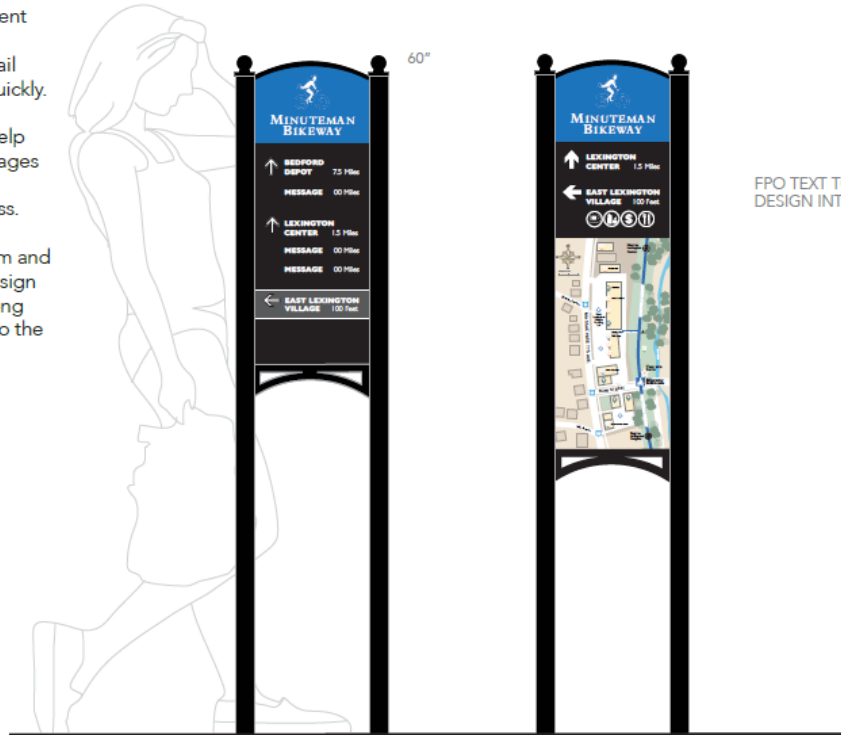
Directional signs are designed as a system and should allow the expanded use of the design for implementation at other locations along the trail route with new content specific to the locations.

Concept illustrations are presented for discussion purposes. Any content illustrated is to show design intent for messaging, and types of signs.

TRAIL DIRECTIONAL

DOUBLE POST, TWO SIDED MESSAGE PANEL

TEXT ONLY AND TEXT WITH MAP



DESIGN OPTION FOR SINGLE POST



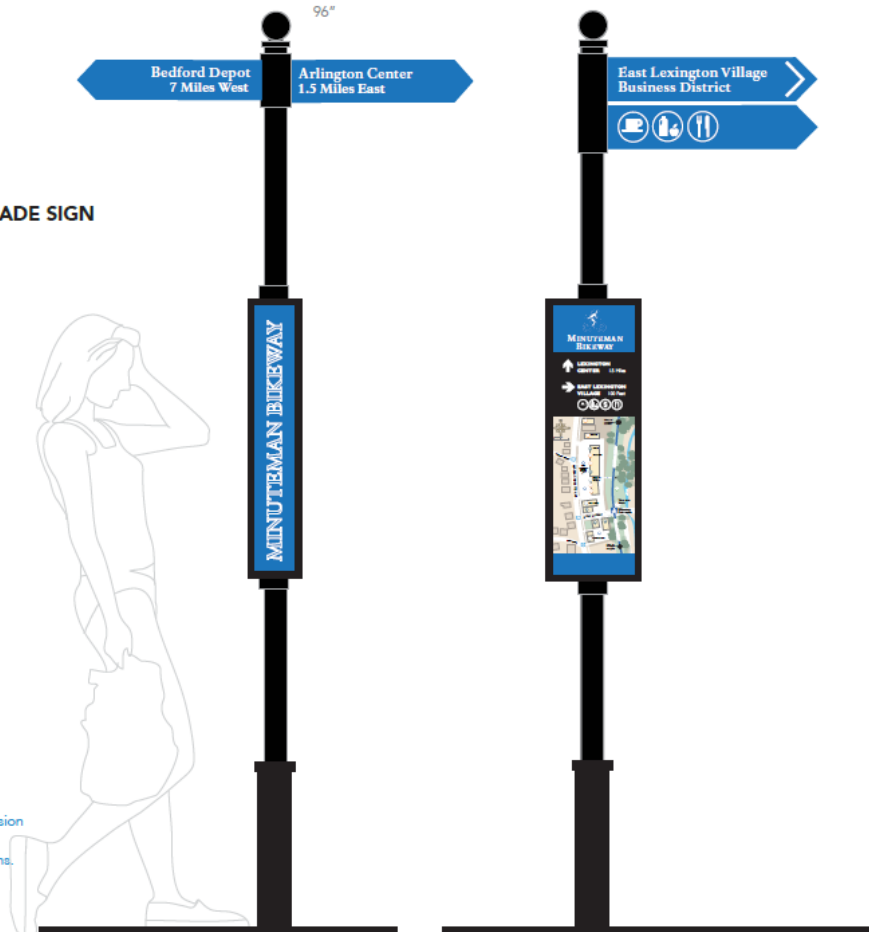
FPO TEXT TO SHOW DESIGN INTENT

Minuteman Bikeway Wayfinding Project

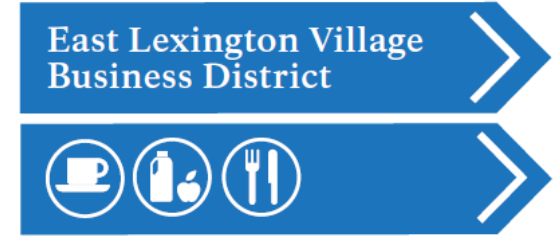
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DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

POINTER BLADE SIGN

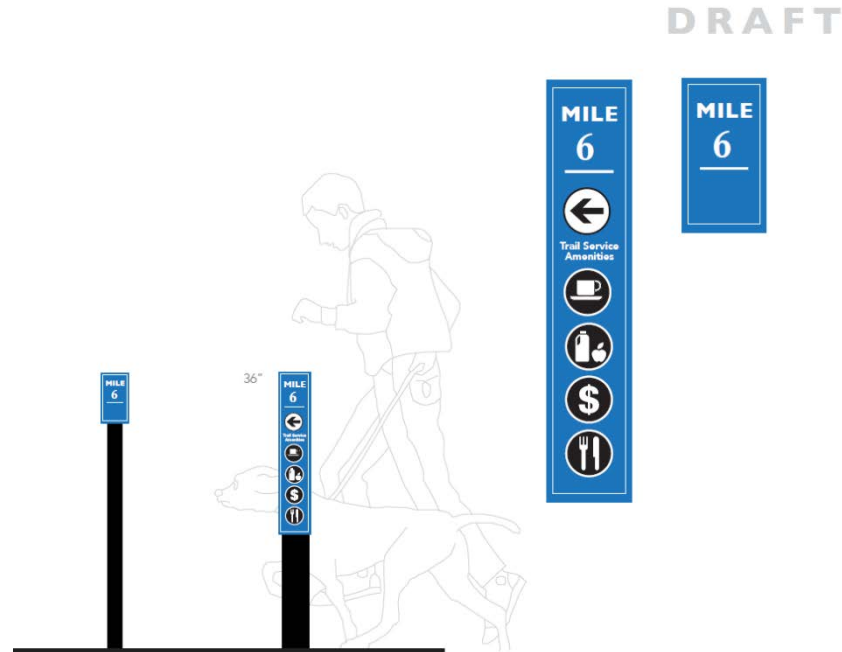


Concept illustrations are presented for discussion purposes. Any content illustrated is to show design intent for messaging, and types of signs.



FPO TEXT TO SHOW DESIGN INTENT

Minuteman Bikeway Wayfinding Project



Questions/Feedback:

- Types of signage or designs that you would like to see?
- Locations of signs for this project (based on area of focus) or future areas?
- Reactions or other general thoughts to help finalize general design?
- Any questions?



Minuteman Bikeway CPA Projects – Preliminary Applications

- DPCD planning to submit two applications related to the Minuteman Bikeway as CPA Preliminary Applications (due October 7)
 - Ryder Street/Summer Street/Burns Arena
 - Lowell Street/No-Name Brook

Figure 72. Schematic Plan of Improvements - Ryder Street / Summer Street Field / Ed Burns Arena



Figure 67. Existing images of Lowell Street Underpass

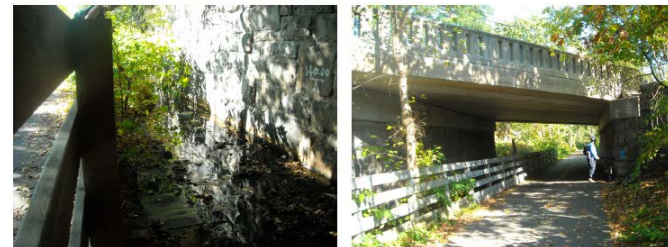


Figure 68. Existing/Proposed Sections at Underpass



Minuteman Bikeway CPA Projects – Preliminary Applications

Ryder Street / Summer Street Field / Burns Arena

Ryder Street is an important cross connection between Summer Street and Massachusetts Avenue and - although closed to vehicles - the road provides both bike and pedestrian access to the Minuteman Bikeway. Given its location between Summer Street Field and the Ed Burns Arena, this location serves as both a trailhead and a major destination for recreation.

Given its ample parking, open space, restrooms & snack bar (rink), playgrounds, and courts, this trailhead is a major destination for residents. Improvements that better express the relationship and synergy between the Bikeway and the facilities would be a win-win. Removing the fence would visually link the Bikeway and this major open space.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Incorporate missing pedestrian and bike connections between Summer Street and the Minuteman Bikeway.
- Develop a pedestrian plaza area alongside the Burns Arena.
- Create a splitter island and crossing for bikeway access from Ryder Street.
- Provide wayside pull-offs along the Minuteman Bikeway to support access and viewing of the playground, baseball field, and basketball court.
- Consider removing the fence between the Bikeway and the Summer Street Field for improved connectivity.
- Maintain ability for Public Works vehicles to enter and exit the Bikeway for maintenance

TRAILHEAD COMPONENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Landmark pylon, locational kiosk, and interpretive kiosk wayfinding
- Seating
- Views
- Landscaping and plantings
- Pull-off area
- Trash receptacles
- Bike parking and repair station
- Bike share station
- Amenities to support existing multi-use fields

NEXT STEPS

Survey, conceptual design and public outreach.

- See page 83 of the Minuteman Bikeway Plan
- Advances the project in the Bikeway Plan to “promote Ryder St access point to a premiere trailhead and construct waysides” (pg. 110) (Plan priority project)
- Note: may or may not include elements associated with the Ryder St connection next to the Arena and up to Summer St depending on CPA limitations - TBD



Minuteman Bikeway CPA Projects – Preliminary Applications

Figure 72. Schematic Plan of Improvements - Ryder Street / Summer Street Field / Ed Burns Arena



Minuteman Bikeway CPA Projects – Preliminary Applications

Lowell Street / No-Name Brook

Approximately 50 feet in width, the Lowell Street underpass accommodates both the Minuteman Bikeway and what is locally known as the No-Name Brook. This unique combination of the path and brook could become a photographic location along the path. The restoration of the No-Name Brook - namely removal of the Japanese Knotweed - would greatly improve the character and quality of this stretch of the Bikeway from Nourse Street to Craig's Landscaping (70 Bow Street).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Replace existing high timber fence to improve visibility through underpass.
- Promote awareness and protection of the No-Name Brook.
- Create an opportunity to sit and enjoy this small stream under the shade of the overpass.
- The brook was treated as a ditch in the original path construction. Work with Conservation Commission to restore the brook to the extent feasible, including elimination of the Japanese Knotweed that has taken over the course of the brook for approximately 1,500 feet, and reconstruct the stream-bed with a rock-gravel substrate.

WAYSIDE COMPONENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Interpretive kiosk wayfinding
- Views
- Public art
- Cultural, historical, or educational exhibits
- Natural areas

NEXT STEPS

Internal discussions with Mill Brook Team and Conservation Staff. Modifications to lease. Survey and design.

- See page 81 of the Minuteman Bikeway Plan
- Advances the project in the Bikeway Plan to “construct wayside and enhance interaction with No-Name Brook” (pg. 110) (Plan priority project)
- Note: will likely include improvements to access points at Nourse St and Lowell St Place because they cross over No-Name Brook
- This project will be led by David Morgan, the Env Planner/Conservation Agent



Minuteman Bikeway CPA Projects – Preliminary Applications

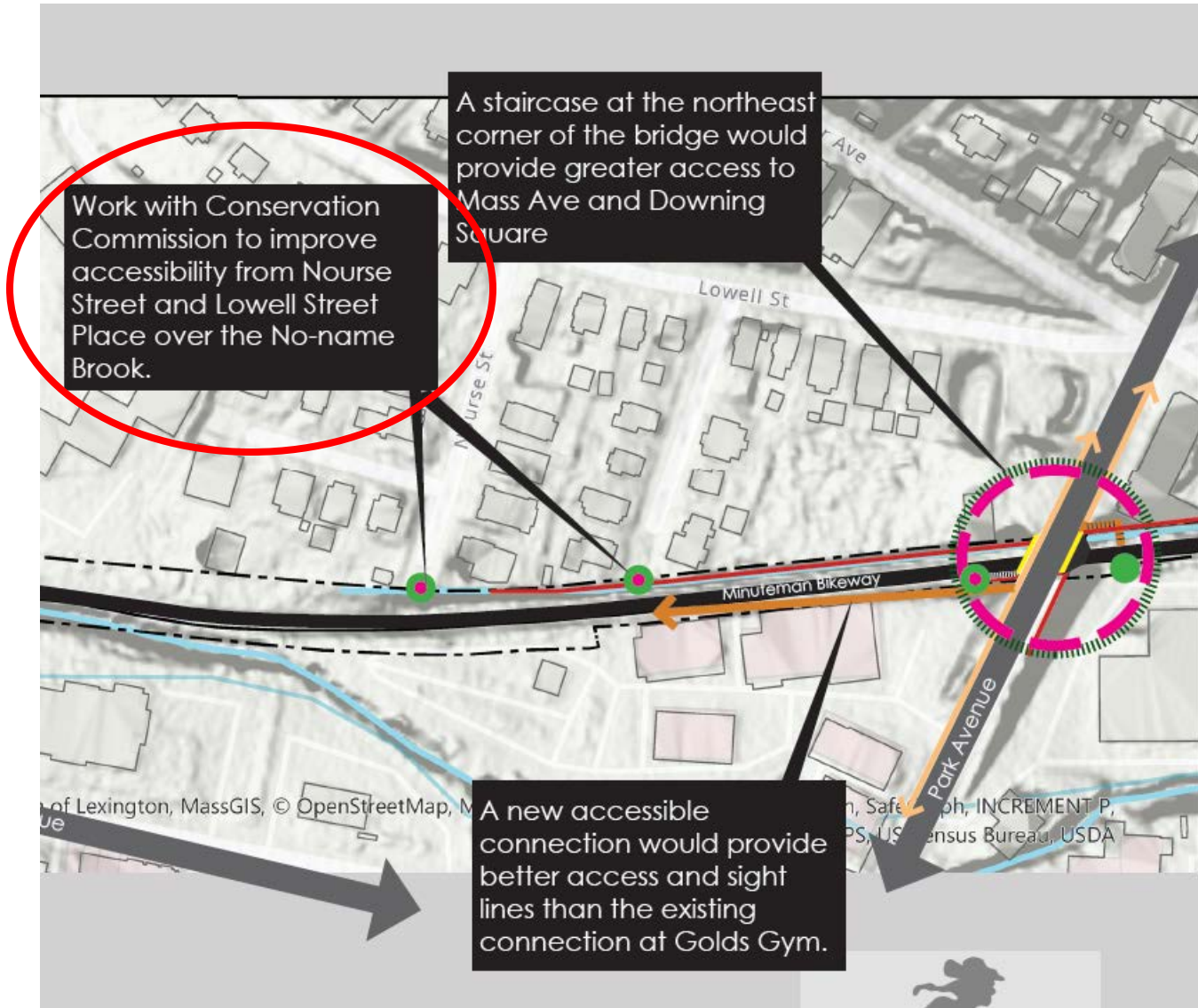
Figure 67. Existing images of Lowell Street Underpass



Figure 68. Existing/Proposed Sections at Underpass



Minuteman Bikeway CPA Projects – Preliminary Applications



Minuteman Bikeway CPA Projects – Preliminary Applications

- Next steps
 - Contact design consultants to get cost estimates
 - Preliminary applications due Oct 7
 - Support letters are appreciated now though not technically needed until final applications (to be due in December)

Figure 72. Schematic Plan of Improvements - Ryder Street / Summer Street Field / Ed Burns Arena



Figure 67. Existing images of Lowell Street Underpass



Figure 68. Existing/Proposed Sections at Underpass



New DPCD Director: Claire Ricker

Ricker Named Arlington's New DPCD Director

Ricker, AICP will begin her role as Arlington Director of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) on Sept. 19.

Post Date: 08/23/2022 2:04 PM

Arlington Town Manager Sandy Pooler is pleased to announce the appointment of Claire Ricker, AICP as Director of Planning and Community Development (DPCD). The DPCD Director staffs the Arlington Redevelopment Board and oversees the Town's planning, housing, economic development, arts & culture, conservation, urban renewal, zoning, and transportation initiatives. Ms. Ricker will start on September 19, 2022.

"I am excited to have Claire lead our excellent Department of Planning and Community Development," said Pooler. "Her experience in Planning, Real Estate, Urban Renewal, and Economic Development throughout Massachusetts make her uniquely suited to take on the position of Director of Planning and Community Development."

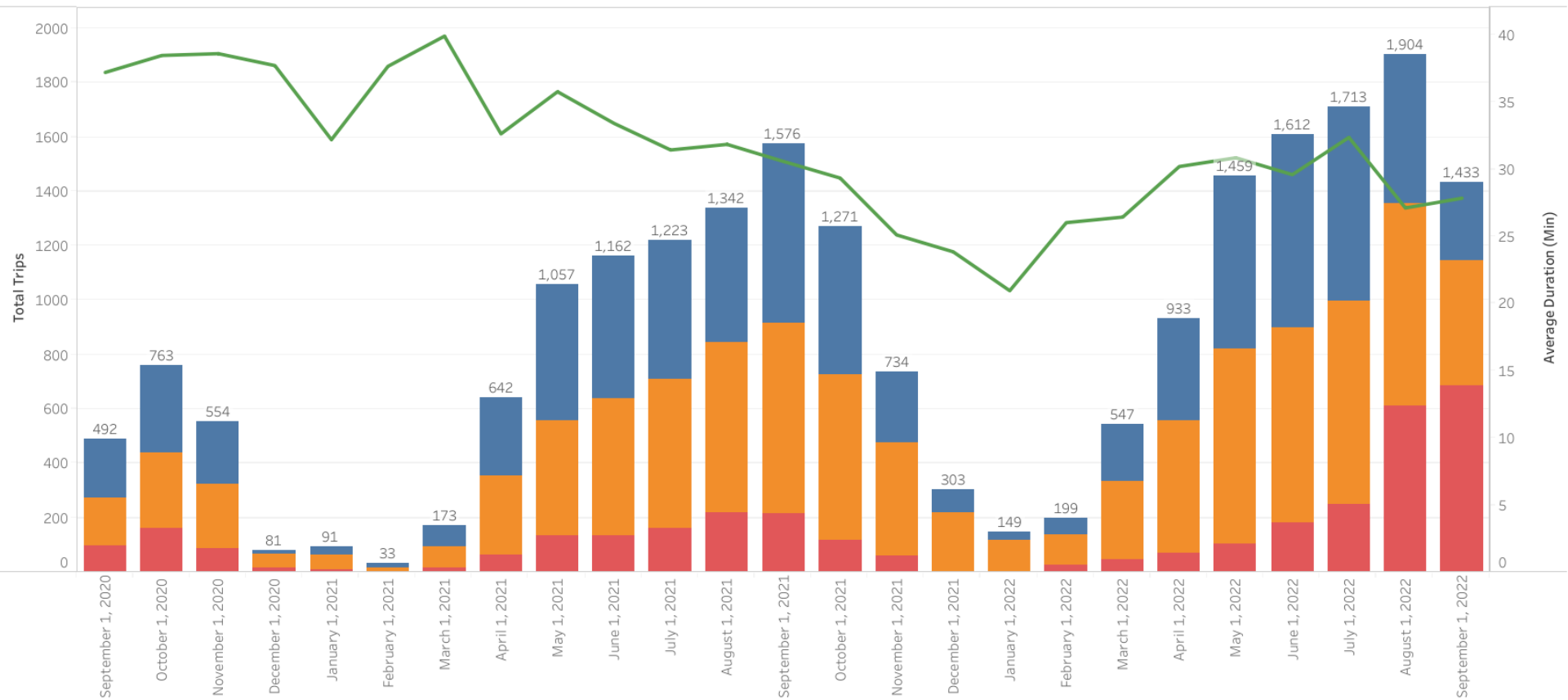


Members of the selection team were Redevelopment Board Chairperson Rachel Zsembery, Arlington Human Resources Director Caryn Malloy, Director of Inspectional Services Michael Ciampa, and Deputy Town Manager/Operations James Feeney.

Ms. Ricker is currently the Director of Real Estate for Coalition for a Better Acre, a Community Development Corporation (CDC) in Lowell, overseeing the development of affordable housing and long-range neighborhood planning to support stable housing in Lowell, Dracut, and Haverhill, among other responsibilities.

BLUEbikes Data for Arlington (2020-present)

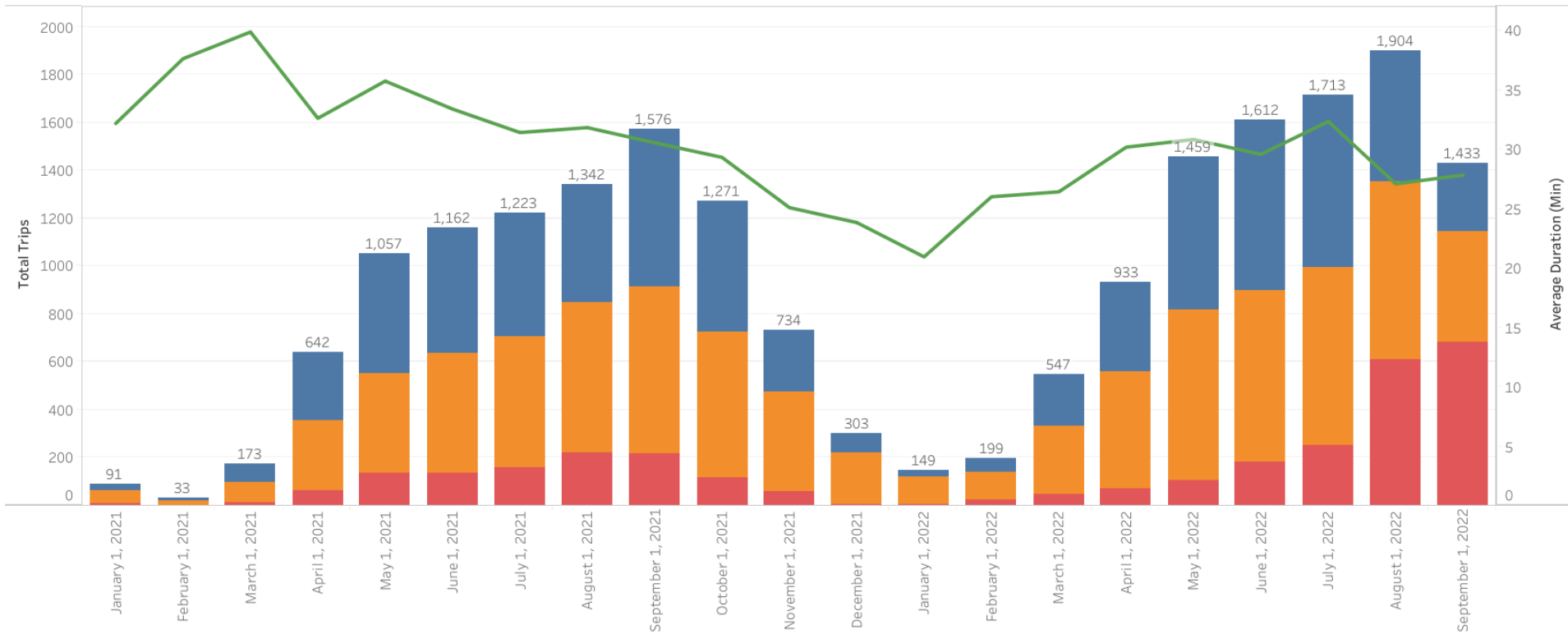
Trip Count & Average Duration
 --trips greater than 60 seconds and capped at 2 hours



BLUEbikes Data for Arlington (2021-present)

Trip Count & Average Duration

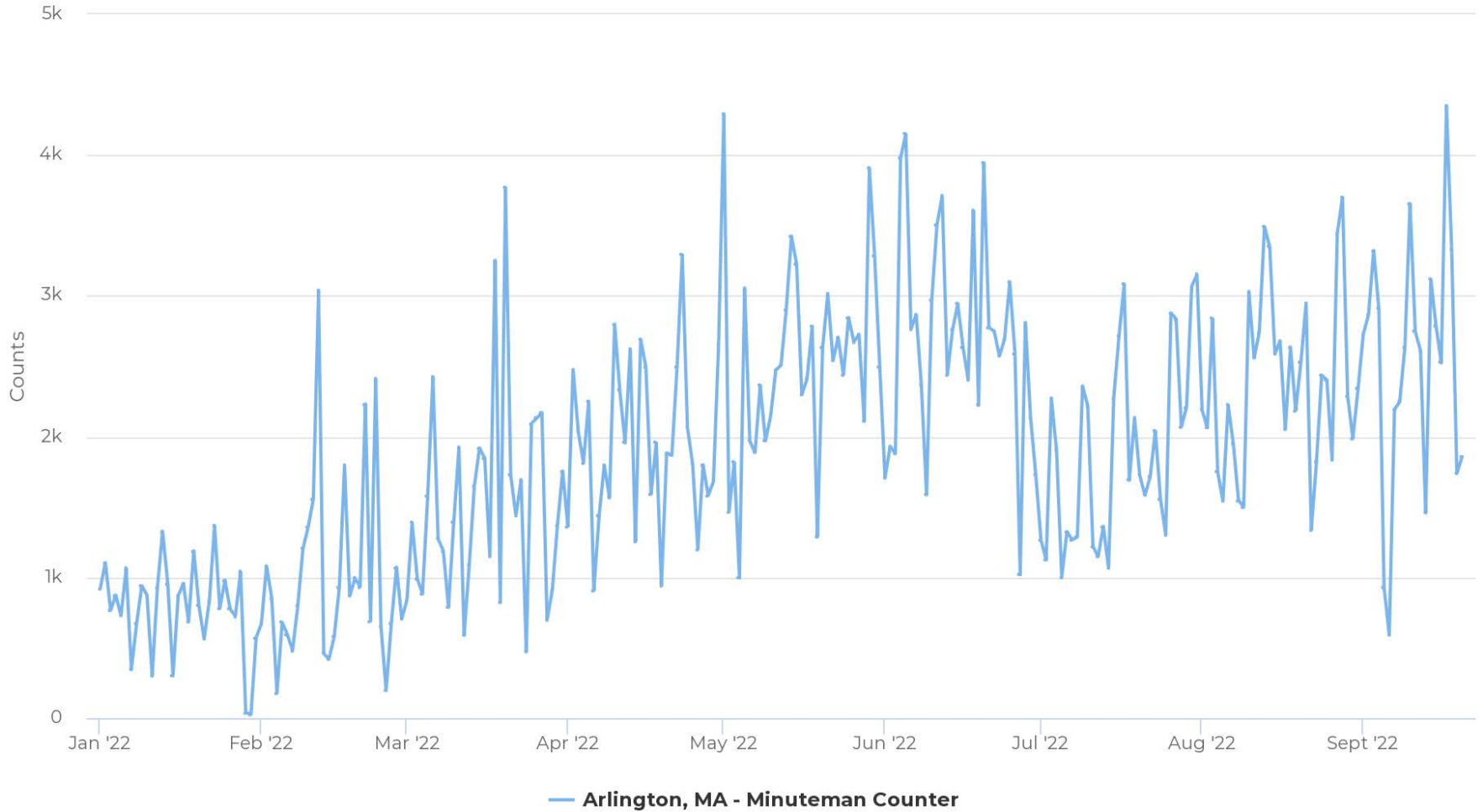
--trips greater than 60 seconds and capped at 2 hours



Minuteman Bikeway Data (Swan Place Eco Counter)

Daily traffic

January 1, 2022 → September 20, 2022



Minuteman Bikeway Data (Swan Place Eco Counter)

Monthly traffic

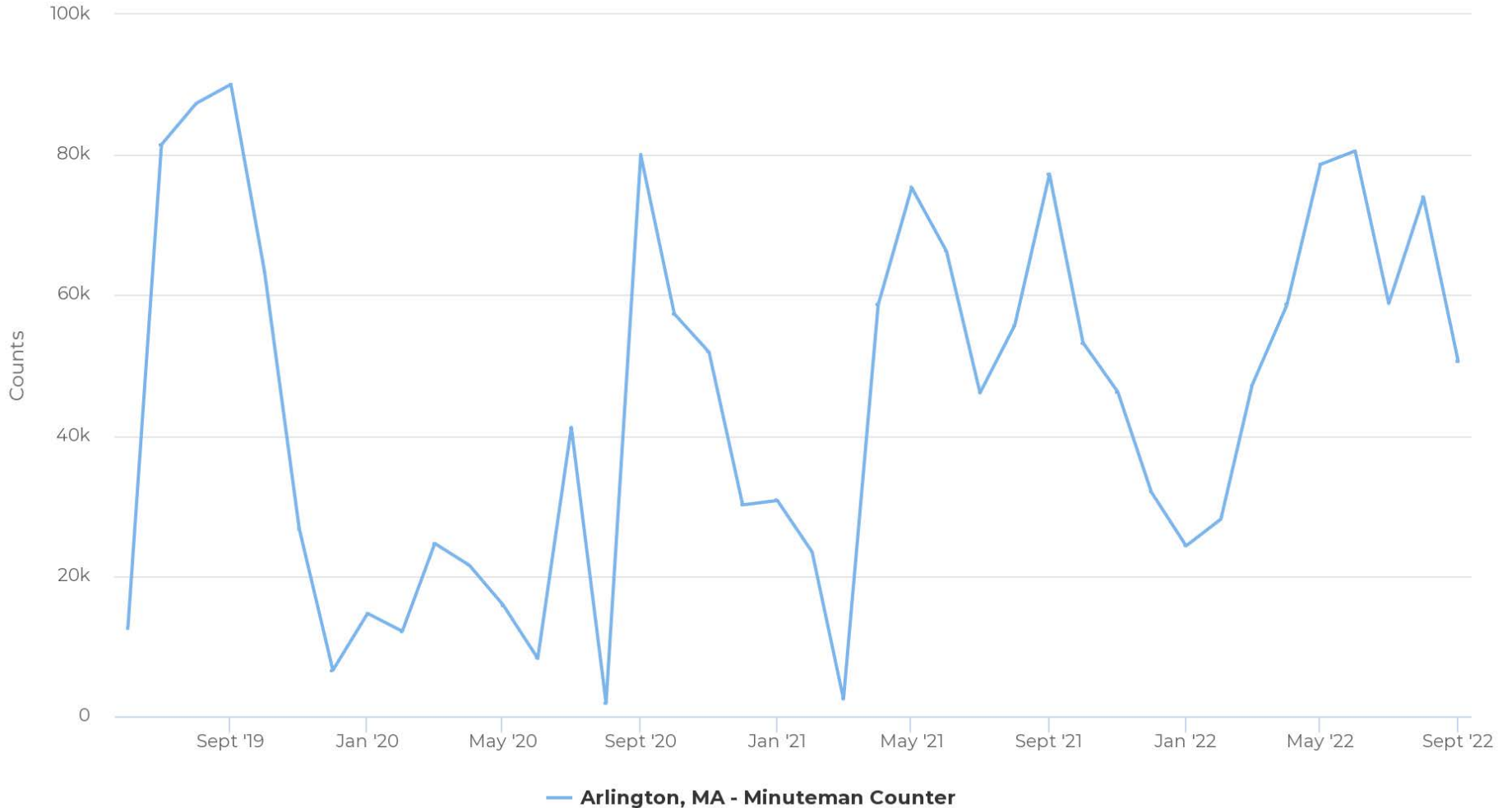
September 21, 2021 → September 20, 2022



Minuteman Bikeway Data (Swan Place Eco Counter)

Monthly traffic

June 26, 2019 12:00 AM → September 21, 2022 1:45 AM



Somerville Streetwise Talk

Sponsored by Somerville Bicycle Committee & Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets

Streetwise
(Formerly Bike Talk)



Monthly speaker series
focused on sharing wisdom
along the path
to Complete Streets

This Lane is Our Lane: How Buses and Bikes Can Share the Road Safely

Wednesday
Sep 21, 2022
6:00 - 7:00PM

Galen Mook, Executive
Director of MassBike, and
Kristiana Lachiusa

Aeronaut Somerville
(Live with Hybrid Zoom)
Visit bit.ly/3ORnXHn for Zoom info

Somerville Streetwise Talk

- I've been invited to present next month: October 19 (same time as/before ABAC meeting)
- Particular topics or projects to address? Examples:
 - Mass Ave/Appleton
 - Chestnut Street
 - BRT Pilot/bus lane/bus priority
 - Lake Street at Minuteman Bikeway
 - BLUEbikes in Arlington
 - Mystic to Bikeway study
 - Minuteman Bikeway Plan
- What else?