

# Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee

A group of cyclists is riding on a city street. In the foreground, a cyclist in a white shirt and khaki pants is riding a blue bicycle. Behind them, several other cyclists are visible, including one with a backpack. The street is lined with cars, including a dark blue sedan with license plate 5448 RY and a white truck. The scene is set in a sunny, urban environment with trees and buildings in the background.

2009  
Annual Bike Report

March 26, 2010



## 2009 ANNUAL BIKE REPORT

### Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee

#### COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Brian Postlewaite, Chairman

Charles Denison, Vice Chairman

Enid Kumin

Peter Coyle

Jim Gallagher

Alan Moore

Ron Newman

Steve DaSilva, Secretary

Alex Epstein

Jing Dai

#### EX-OFFICIO

Janice Delory, Office of the Mayor

Bob Trane, Board of Alderman

Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of  
Public Works

Terry Smith, Traffic & Parking

Kathleen Ziegenfuss, Office of Strategic  
Planning and Community Development

Police Department



The Somerville Board of Aldermen established the Somerville Advisory Bicycle Committee (SBC) in 2001. The SBC works to improve conditions for bicyclists in the city, promote bicycling as a means of transportation, improve safety conditions for bicyclists, and to help implement bicycle policy, programs, and routes for all ages and abilities.

Approximately 5% of Somerville residents commute by bicycle<sup>1</sup>. This is nearly a three-fold increase over two decades (1990, 2%; 2000, 3%)<sup>2</sup>. The increase of bicyclists in the city has paralleled the improving conditions for bicycling in Somerville (see Map 1: Existing Bicycle Facilities). These improvements over the past two decades include traffic calming measures, the Community Path, bicycle lanes and City-sponsored community bike rides.

The SBC plans to continue with these improvements over the next decade in order to increase both bicycle facilities and public outreach to encourage new bicyclists in Somerville. Our overall goal is 10% of Somerville residents traveling by bicycle in 2020.

## GOALS FOR 2020

To continue the growth of bicycling in the city, and attain 10% bicyclists by 2020, the SBC has charted the following key elements to reach this goal:

- Complete the Community Path, to provide a direct, car-free route from Somerville to Boston via Brickbottom & North Point. The path currently ends at Cedar Street.

- Provide Bike Route Signage, to help bicyclists navigate our neighborhood streets and avoid roads with greater motor vehicle traffic where possible.
- Provide Bicycle Facilities on all Major City Roads, to provide safe and efficient facilities for bicyclists to travel throughout the city.
- Increase Access to Bike Parking:
  - » Install public bike racks in all business areas and at most 1/4 mile apart in residential areas, and
  - » Provide centralized and preferably sheltered parking facilities at main commercial centers, civic areas and transit stations.
- Institute City-Wide Bike Share Program with the MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council), to facilitate flexible, seamless bicycle travel with neighboring cities and transit.
- Update Zoning to Anticipate Increased Bicycle Use, which will place a greater demand on private bicycle parking facilities than currently required by zoning.
- Calm Street Traffic, so bicyclists of every age and ability can travel comfortably throughout the city.
- Educate Grade School Students to Operate Bicycles in the City, such that, with calmed vehicular traffic, 20% or more of Somerville students will bicycle to school.
- Educate Everybody about City Cycling, so drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians, of all languages and backgrounds, know the rights and responsibilities of bicycling in Somerville.

1 US Census, 2008 Community Survey.

2 US Census, 1990 & 2000.

- Prepare More Bicycle Promotion Programs and Materials, to provide all Somerville residents with the encouragement and support to be a Somerville Cyclist.

Each of these elements will help Somerville residents to bicycle more. The following measures will allow the City to chart its progress and provide feedback to optimize available funds.

- Annual Bicycle Counting, to chart bicycle usage; led by the SBC in coordination with the OSPCD.
- Regular Enforcement and Recording of Dangerous Traffic Behavior; led by the Police Department.
- Annual Bicycle Accident & Incident Report, to assess both problem locations and problem behaviors; led by the SBC in coordination with the OSPCD (data sources may include MassDOT, MAPC, CTPS, City Police Reports, and other local sources).

Together, these efforts will help the SBC achieve its long term vision of a network of bicycle facilities throughout Somerville (see Map 2: Bicycle Facilities, Long Term Vision).

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2009

The SBC has advanced the above goals throughout 2009, through the successful partnerships with the following city organizations and departments:

- Mayor's Office
- Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
- Traffic and Parking

- Historic Preservation Commission
- Department of Public Works
- Police Department
- Shape up Somerville
- Somerville Arts Council

With the help of the City the SBC has accomplished the following:

- Annual Historic Bike Ride, 2009 theme: Somerville's Houses of Worship
- Annual Tour De Somerville, 2009 theme: The City's Seven Hills
- Bicycle Valet Parking and Outreach Table during Art Beat
- Advised the City to increase bicycle accommodations in City, State and private projects:
  - » Washington St (between Union Square and Charlestown)
  - » Somerville Avenue (between McGrath Highway and Porter Square)
  - » Assembly Square
  - » Union Square
  - » Community Path
  - » Green Line Extension Stations
  - » Mystic River Parkway Alewife Brook Bridge
  - » Alewife Brook Multi-Use Paths
  - » City's Comprehensive Plan
  - » Magoun Square
  - » East Broadway (in support of East Somerville Main Streets)
- Updated Somerville Bicycle Map with on-road bicycle facilities
- Created and launched the Somervillebikes.org website

- Installed shared lane markings (sharrows) on:
  - » Park Street
  - » Mossland Street
  - » Washington Street (between Union Square and Beacon Street)
  - » Elm Street
  - » Joy Street
- New bike racks throughout the city

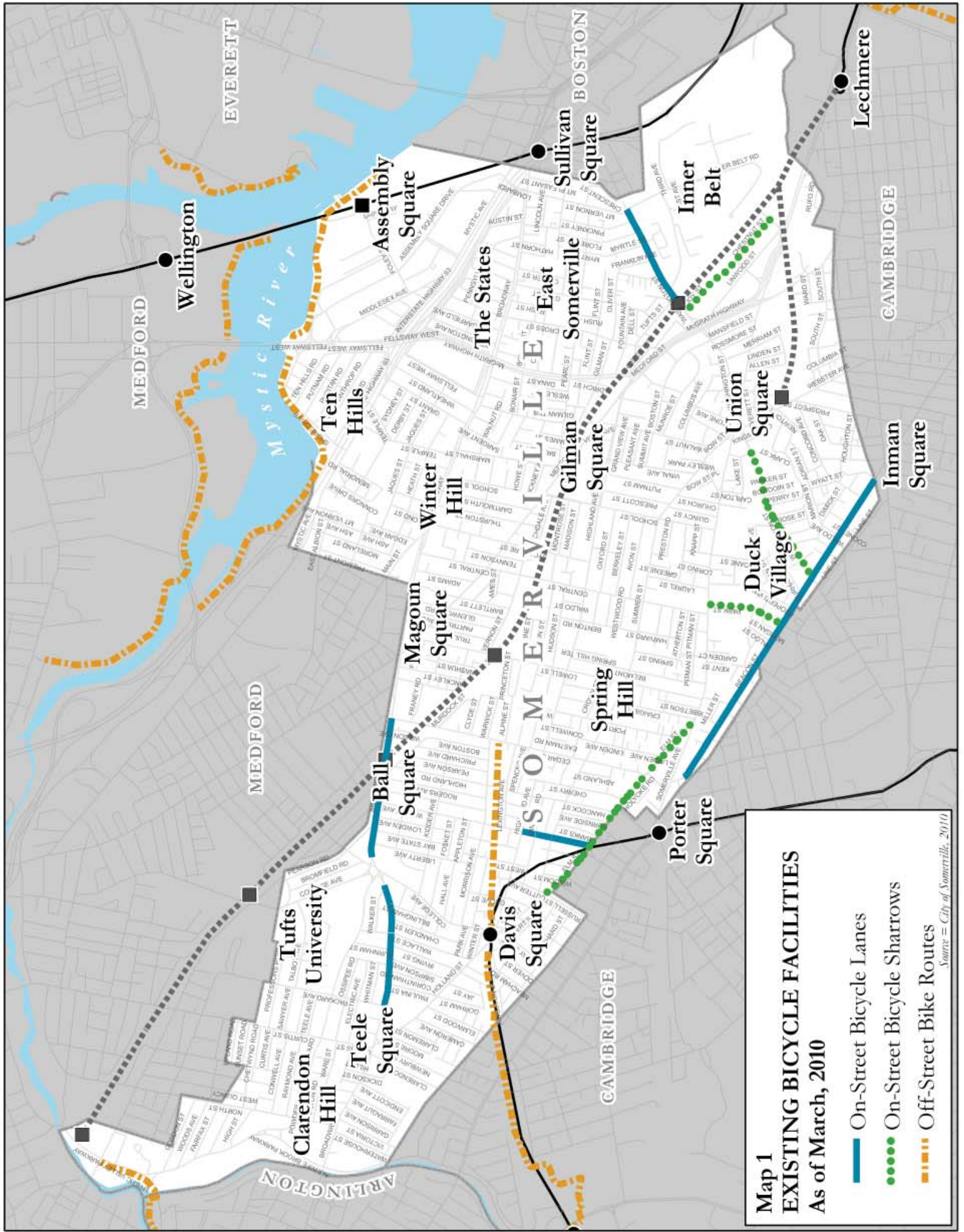
## INITIATIVES FOR 2010

The SBC intends to explore of a few key initiatives for 2010 (see Map 3: 2010 Bicycle Proposals). These initiatives would build on the City's past accomplishments and work towards our 2020 goals. We plan to work with the City on the following:

- Expand the on-street bicycle facilities network, potential facilities include:
  - » Extend the Willow Avenue bike lane with sharrows to Ball Square
  - » Install bike lanes and advisory bike lanes on Cedar Street
  - » Install advisory bike lanes on Mossland Street
  - » Install advisory bike lanes and/or bike lanes on Summer Street
  - » Install sharrows, advisory bike lanes and/or bike lanes on College Street

- Explore the potential to add bike parking in Union and Davis Squares, where bicycles regularly exceed available bicycle racks, by providing large on-street bicycle racks.
- Develop a bicycle wayfinding network built upon the Community Path and neighborhood streets to link major commercial, civic and transportation centers.
- Include cyclists' need for pavement quality into the City's annual road reconstruction process.
- Assist the City and MassDOT in design and funding of the Community Path extension.
- Assist the City to install 100 bike racks in business districts and commercial corridors throughout the city.





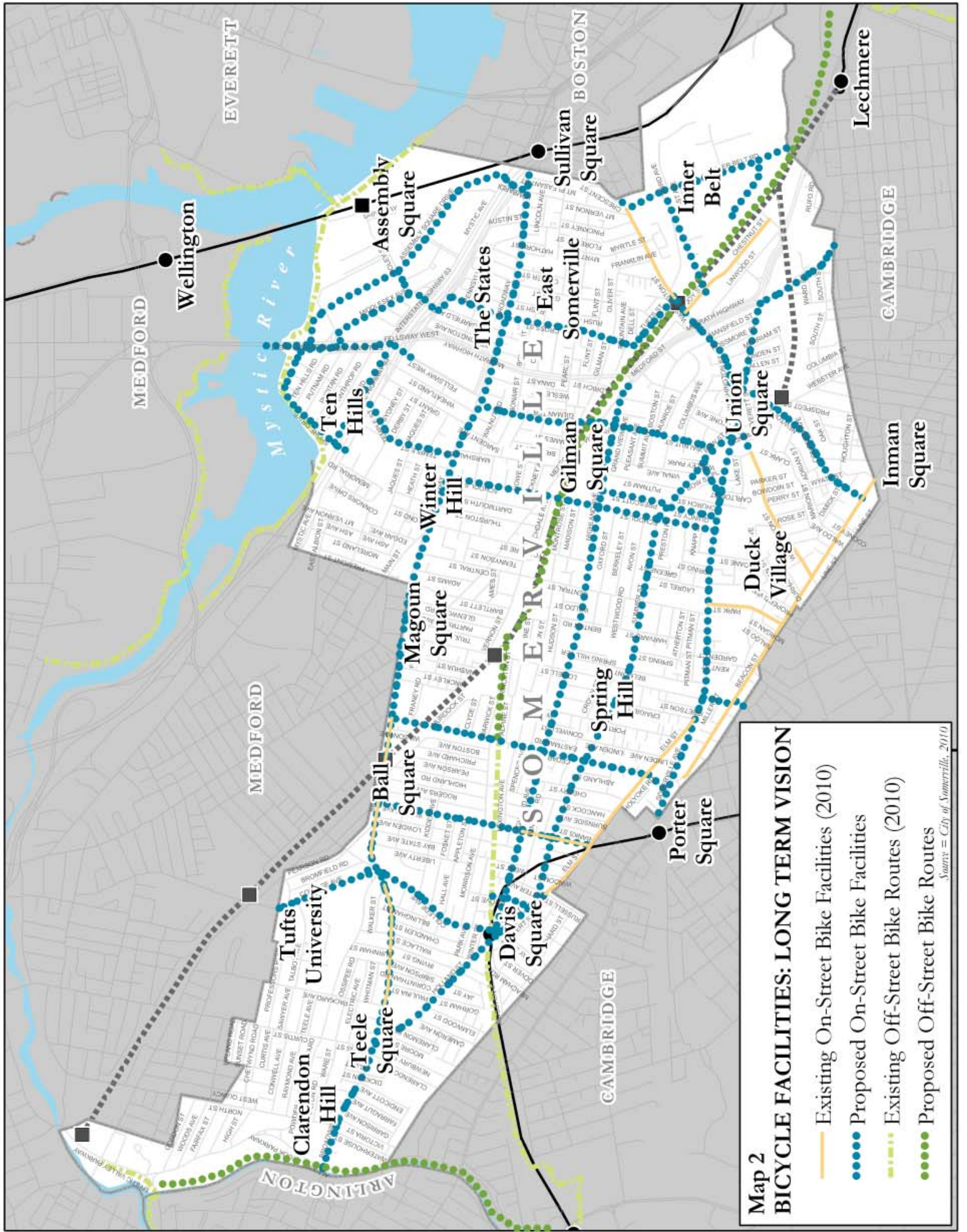
**Map 1**  
**EXISTING BICYCLE FACILITIES**  
 As of March, 2010

- On-Street Bicycle Lanes
- On-Street Bicycle Sharrows
- - - - - Off-Street Bike Routes

Source = City of Somerville, 2010





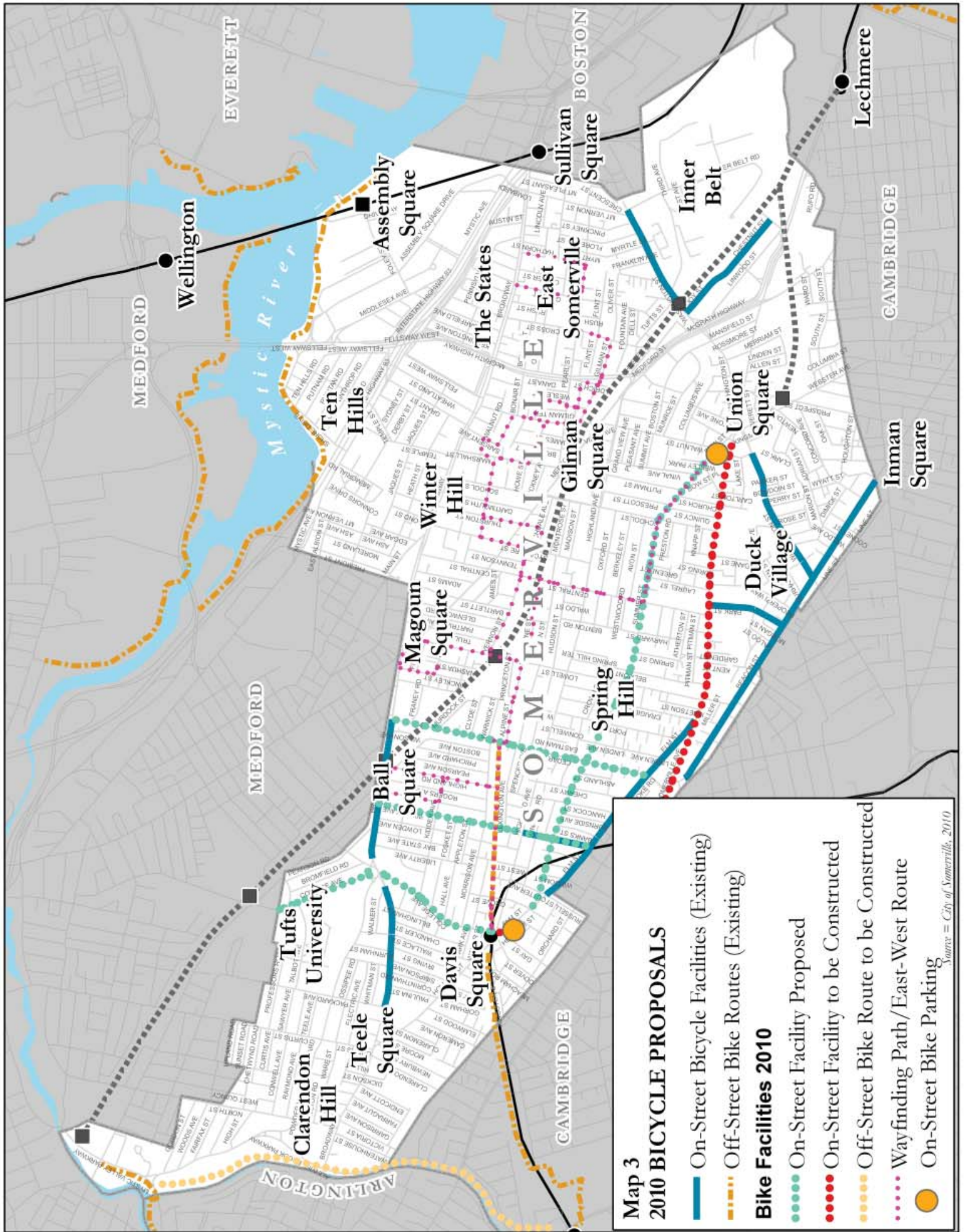


**Map 2**  
**BICYCLE FACILITIES: LONG TERM VISION**

- Existing On-Street Bike Facilities (2010)
- Proposed On-Street Bike Facilities
- Existing Off-Street Bike Routes (2010)
- Proposed Off-Street Bike Routes

*Source = City of Somerville, 2010*





**Map 3**  
**2010 BICYCLE PROPOSALS**

- On-Street Bicycle Facilities (Existing)
- - - Off-Street Bike Routes (Existing)

**Bike Facilities 2010**

- On-Street Facility Proposed
- On-Street Facility to be Constructed
- Off-Street Bike Route to be Constructed
- Wayfinding Path/East-West Route
- On-Street Bike Parking

Source = City of Somerville, 2010



## SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For more information:

<http://www.somervillema.gov/Department.cfm?orgunit=BICYCLE>

<http://www.somervillebikes.org/>