

Madalyn Letellier

From: Chasen Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 11:45 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Dangerous Intersection at Powder House Blvd and Alewife Brook Pkwy

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Hello Somerville City Council,

I live right at the intersection of Powder House Blvd and Alewife Brook Pkwy and have experienced some incredibly dangerous driving due to the state the intersection has been left in. Within the last 24hrs I have personally had someone drive directly into the opposite lane head on at me. I believe this is due to improper signage of the changes made to the intersection and faded/inadequate pavement markings. It is not very clear as you drive in either direction on Alewife Brook the there is a forced merge. This causes drivers to swerve around cars merging and enter oncoming traffic.

The overall changes made to the intersection have been wonderful. The traffic in the area is roughly the same but there isn't as much confusion about the odd shaped rotary that used to be there. The small park area and surface street added are also wonderful. I also appreciate the traffic light being installed. However, since that traffic light was turned on and set to flashing yellow/red drivers have started flying through the intersection again. Before, when the stop signs were there it caused drivers to slow down. But now that the lights are set to blinking yellow for Alewife Brook Pkwy I regularly see people flying around the corner at 40+ mph. This feels incredibly dangerous especially as I walk on the sidewalk right next to the curve.

I would love to know of any updated schedule for the completion of the crosswalks, setting up the traffic lights, and finishing of construction on the park/surface street. The state the intersection has been left in is worrying and is likely going to cause a head on collision soon. I worry for not only my own safety but for the safety of the children from the neighborhood/nearby schools who will start using Dillboy park as the weather gets warmer. How the crosswalks/intersection has been left is dangerous for a vulnerable population.

Thank you for your time,
Chasen Williams
[REDACTED]