

Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets: Declaration and Call To Action

The Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets (SASS) is a coalition of residents, parents, vulnerable road users, transit users, business owners and elected officials. We come from different backgrounds but share a common goal for Somerville's streets and sidewalks: safety and equitable mobility for all.

We call on:

- **The Mayor**, to dedicate resources in the 2022 budget for the rapid construction of physical infrastructure that will slow traffic, protect our most vulnerable residents, bring our city's streets and sidewalks into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and prevent further traffic fatalities. We specifically ask the Mayor to fund the creation of a Department of Transportation with at least three new, additional full-time staff including a senior position empowered to coordinate this work across departments - a Chief of Streets.
- **The Mayor**, to direct the Directors of Mobility, Engineering, Public Works, and Traffic and Parking to collaborate with each other and the community to implement effective, legal, and equitable measures that will slow drivers and save lives.
- **The City**, to implement the detailed recommendations and specific goals in our policy guidance documents, including the [Vision Zero Action Plan](#), [Somerville Vision 2040](#), the [Climate Forward](#) plan, the [Open Space Task Force Strategy](#), the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) Transition Plan](#), and [Complete Streets](#) and to review and implement the [Specific Recommendations](#) prepared by SASS.
- **The City Council**, to support safe streets and equitable mobility items in the 2022 budget, insist on the formation of the oversight committee called for in the City's Vision Zero Plan, and to use all the power at its disposal to ensure that proposed streetscape projects align with the City's stated goals.
- The broad **community of residents and advocates**, to stand on common ground and join us in this mission to create a safer and more livable city.

We believe that none of us are truly safe until all of us are safe. Our street designs should minimize risk to all users, especially vulnerable users such as children, older adults, and people with disabilities. This includes people who walk, use mobility devices (such as wheelchairs and walkers), push a stroller, or ride a bicycle.

We believe our streets should provide equitable mobility for all residents. Our infrastructure, transit, and mobility investments should be made equitably to provide opportunities for everyone to move around reliably, regardless of their abilities and means of transportation. This includes ensuring that people with disabilities can access all parts of the city, via genuinely accessible routes to all public buildings, transit stations, and civic amenities. Investments should prioritize historically underserved neighborhoods.

We believe everyone should benefit from our public space. Our streets and sidewalks comprise nearly a quarter of Somerville's land, a precious civic asset. We should allocate and use this land to provide benefits for all residents. After assuring safety and equitable mobility, this space can also contribute to climate resilience by providing shade trees, permeable surfaces, and capturing carbon.

We believe that the City can do more. Despite the City's past efforts to improve street safety, Somerville residents are still vulnerable. Speeding and distracted driving endanger our community. Four pedestrians were killed by drivers and more than 160 pedestrians and bicyclists were injured on our streets in crashes with motorists that were reported in 2019 and 2020, but residents cannot easily learn about these crashes because the City's Vision Zero dashboard is not maintained. City investments continue to prioritize movement and parking of cars and trucks at the expense of safety, mobility and accessibility for other users. Additionally, the lack of progress in reducing reliance on cars has delayed our ability to reduce citywide carbon emissions. Meanwhile, accessible parking spaces are relatively scarce, a large share of the city's sidewalks are in disrepair and do not comply with the ADA, and many streets have insufficient lighting for nighttime visibility.

The City has already solicited extensive community recommendations but is not consistently implementing them: Somerville residents have volunteered thousands of hours to help develop our Vision Zero Action Plan, SomerVision, the Climate Forward plan, the Open Space Task Force Strategy and the Parking Task Force Recommendations. The community continues to express our priorities, yet progress is too slow. We ask the city to honor our stated commitments to safety, accessibility, equitable investment, mitigating the impacts of climate change, reducing Somerville's dependency on cars, and creating a more livable city.

The City has legal and legislative obligations in its commitments to the ADA Transition Plan and the Complete Streets Ordinance, yet progress is frustratingly slow.

SASS is prepared to:

1. Provide open forums to keep all residents informed about developments specific to streetscape safety as they arise in city government and to transparently share both advances and setbacks via local and social media.
2. Organize direct actions including public gatherings, demonstrations, press releases, and tactical urbanism efforts to raise awareness of the urgent need to create safe and accessible public streets and sidewalks.
3. Develop and publicly track specific metrics to evaluate both the success and failure of the city's efforts.
4. Mobilize Somerville residents to make their voices heard in emails, calls, and letters to their elected officials, and to attend and participate in public meetings.
5. Engage in elections to educate candidates and voters on the issues, and the public about candidates' records on advancing safe streets and sidewalks.

The undersigned call on the City to respond to the fatalities and injuries on our streets by following through on plans to implement our shared values to make Somerville's streets and sidewalks safe and accessible for all.

This is our call to action.

SASS Planning Committee

Stephenson Aman, Jacques Street
Ken Carlson, Beacon Street
Bonnie Denis, Maxwells Green
Chris Dwan, Ivaloo Street
Stephanie Galaitsi, Morrison Ave
Colin Killick, Albion Street
Kristiana Lachiusa, Evergreen Square
Joan Liu, Florence Street
Wilfred Mbah, Woods Avenue
Karen Molloy, Highland Avenue
Mark Niedergang, Conwell Street
Steven Nutter, Maple Avenue
Zachary Rosenberg, Cameron Avenue
Arah Schuur, Walker Street
George Schneeloch, School Street
Susann Wilkinson, Orchard Street
Larry Yu, Herbert Street

Signatories:

Ken Carlson, Beacon Street
Karl Alexander, Madison Street
Dan Flynn, Ivaloo Street
Jim Gallagher, Spencer Avenue
Martin Pavlinic, Ware Street
Alan Moore, Cherry Street
Patrick Cahn, Willow Avenue
Edward Faulkner, Bay State Avenue
Chris Devers, Knowlton
Moses Blumenstiel, Florence Street
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Vivian Lee, Berkeley Street
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Chaz Kelsh, Calvin Street
Charlotte Wiman, Park Street
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Nate Kaufman, Bay State Avenue
Gregory Ely, Morrison Avenue
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Lucy Parkinson, Everett Avenue
Kate Wheeler, Rev Nazareno Properzi Way
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Caroline Bennett, Oxford Street
Aleksey Kliger, Willow Avenue
Kate Dwyer, Murdock Street
Jered Floyd, Cherry Street
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Lian Guertin, Quincy Street
Ted Lester, Summer Street
Ace Young, Parkdale Street
Brenda Pike, Summer Street
Ali Ukani, Parkdale
Peter Doherty, Hinckley
Lise Capet, Munroe Street
Avery louie, Hancock
Marji Gere, Dell Street
Laura de la Torre Bueno, Spring Hill Terrace
Samuel Haymann, Porter Street
Alex Frieden, Lake Street
David Zarowin, Summer Street
Chris Dwan, Ivaloo
Lydia Fash, Norfolk Street
Daphne Kalotay, Beacon Street
Chris Fiore, Vernon Street
Blake Willmarth, Beacon Street
Peter Fleming, Dresden Circle
Anna Leslie, Banks Street
Larry Yu, Herbert Street
Carl Larson, Columbus Avenue
Ryland Bennett, Moreland Street
Brian MacKenzie, Sacramento Street
Allie Wainer, Summer
Alex Anderson, Simpson Avenue
Sam Musher, Pinckney Street
Sophie Kaufman, Knowlton
Becca Wolfson, School Street
Nicole Freedman, Summer Street
Aaron Greiner, Parkdale
Maureen Hautaniemi, Prescott Street
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Brad Chapman, Partridge Avenue
Alex Epstein, Windsor Road
Ted Feldman, Gorham Street
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Michelle Moon, Summer Street
Ariel White, Hinckley Street
Thomas M Estrada, Somerville Avenue
Mark Niedergang, Conwell Street
Brandon Stafford, Chandler Street
Michael Weber, Cambria Street
Jaya Mathur, Gorham Street
Cathy Ward, Sellon Place
Seth Hurwitz, Walnut Street
Jon Ramos, College Hill Road
Cheetiri Smith, Skehan Street
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Eric Fogg, Belmont Street
Charlotte Morse-Fortier, Belmont Street
Jordon Wade, Bonair Street
Kelly Wilson, Bonair
Donna Fole-Hodges, Ivaloo
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Lisa Philpotts, Concord Avenue
Dana Sackton, Lowden Avenue
Katie Walsh, Banks Street
Cate Mingoya, Acadia Park
Emily Ann Lalka, Thurston Street
Dan Rassi, Bow Street
Emily Cronin-Furman, Park Street
Amy Mertl, Mount Vernon
Zachary Rosenberg, Cameron Avenue
George Schneeloch, School
Karen Molloy, Highland Avenue
Will Mbah, Woods Avenue
Marie Lessard-Brandt , Walnut Street
April Dodd, Belmont Street
Colin Whooten, Albion Street
Sara Wasserman, Broadway
Maureen Fisher, Lowell Street
Liza Comeau, Flint Street
Christine Lewis, Willow Avenue
Humaira Merchant, Skehan Street
Jackie Yun, Adrian
Denise Ichinco, Shore Drive
Tim Buntel, Trull Street
Jennifer Stevens, Clyde Street
Kate Castle, Central

Katie Walsh, Banks Street
Rauvin Johl, Walnut Street
John Carlson, Michigan Avenue
Angie Byrne, Highland Avenue
Rachel Fichtenbaum, Calvin Street
Rebecca Minervino , Cameron Avenue
Jessica Rizzo, Kensington Avenue
Julianna Allen, Lexington Avenue
Stella Gaitani, Highland Avenue
Brianna Jayanthi, Prospect Street
Stephanie Smith, Webster Avenue
Roger Levy, Webster Avenue
Valerie Gor, Albion Street
Jessica Sewell, Concord Avenue
Lili O'Donnell, Nashua
Mark Chase, Belmont Street
Catherine MacLean, Broadway
Jim McGinnis, Bow Street
William Quan, Wallace Street
Henry Clapp, Columbus Avenue
Walther Chen, Oxford Street
Kathleen Feeney, Columbus Avenue
Hannah Robertson, Bow Street
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Sarah, Woods Avenue
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Mariah Russell, Willow Avenue
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Amy Dickson, Skehan Street
Taryn Bone, Perkins Street
Derek DuPont, Craigie Street
Ana Natera, Avon Street
Colleen Kaman, Partridge Avenue
Abhi Butchibabu, Glenwood Road
Michael Wang-Evers, Rush
Daniel Donovan, Warwick
M Kocol, School Street
Pallavi Gambhire, Wheatland Street
Mara Coelho, Business owner on Washington St. & Beacon St
Ronn Friedlander, Properzi Way (business address)
Gaurab Basu, children go to school at Treehouse Academy
Pamela McLemore
Petru Sofio

Rob Vandenabeele
Roberta Ferretti
Christopher Cassa
Peter Cheung
Carlos Peralta
Zaynah Qutubuddin
Scott Englander
Steve Miller
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