

John Long

From: Lindsey Collins Sudbury <linzcollins@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Mayor; City Council
Cc: somerville@cambridgebikesafey.org; City Clerk Contact
Subject: People-centric streets

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I appreciate the progress we have seen in the areas of bike and pedestrian safety around the city. However, the driver experience is still given priority in street planning. A very few people actually need to drive because they are physically unable to take more environmentally safe methods of transit, including more active ones like biking or walking. The rest of the driving population just does it because it is more convenient since transit is slow and inconsistent or they believe biking and walking to be less safe (which it is). I understand that it's not easy to switch from a car-centric to people-centric streets, but we need to do this for the good of the people, the city, and the planet. Bullet points below provide some measurable ways to accomplish this recommended by people who have been doing analysis in this area. I am fully in support of these tactics as well as any other strategies for creating more people-centric streets that are brought forward.

I will continue to vote and advocate for measures that support people-centric streets and vote for public officers that are forward thinking in transportation planning.

- We need the traffic calming measures beyond that which is already planned for Powder House Blvd as soon as possible. A raised crosswalk planned for the intersection with Hardan Rd was delayed too long and was left off the final design. The city cannot cut corners on people's safety.
- Powder House Blvd is also due to get protected bike lanes along a stretch near the rotary. The city should not wait for another fatality to install these.
- **We need faster implementation of traffic calming and bicycle safety projects all through Somerville. The city needs to accelerate its implementation of quick build projects in areas it knows to be dangerous.**

Sincerely,

Lindsey Sudbury, 45 Walnut St., Somerville

John Long

From: Lisa Wexler <lisawexlerart@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 9:40 AM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: One more death from a bike accident is one too many

To the Somerville City Clerk -

There was one more death from a bicycle accident recently, which is one too many. Alison Donovan was killed as a result of riding her bike through Powerhouse Blvd.

I urge you to take action immediately on making Powerhouse BLVD a safe and safer intersection for those who bicycle through it. I understand that there are plans in the works to do this. Somerville cannot wait to do this.

Let's work together to prevent unnecessary fatal and non-fatal bicycle accidents from taking place in this city. Our loved ones, neighbors and those who bike in Somerville deserve to be protected.

Thank you, Elisabeth Ann Wexler

John Long

From: Carolyn Tilney <carolyn.tilney@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 10:48 AM
To: Mayor; City Council
Cc: City Clerk Contact; somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org
Subject: Bike Safety in Somerville

To the Mayor's Office and Somerville City Council,

I am a Somerville resident and am concerned about the lack of bike safety in our community.

- We need the traffic calming measures **beyond** that which is already planned for Powder House Blvd **as soon as possible**. A raised crosswalk planned for the intersection with Hardan Rd was delayed too long and was left off the final design. The city cannot cut corners on people's safety.
- Powder House Blvd is also due to get **protected bike lanes** along a stretch near the rotary. The city should not wait for another fatality to install these.
- We need faster implementation of traffic calming and bicycle safety projects **all through Somerville**. The city needs to accelerate its implementation of quick build projects in areas it knows to be dangerous.

Thank you,
Carolyn Tilney

John Long

From: Nate Kaufman <natekauf@rcn.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 1:22 PM
To: Mayor
Cc: somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org; City Clerk Contact
Subject: Please make VisionZero your number one priority

Dear Mayor Curtatone and Somerville Councilors,

My name is Nate Kaufman, a Somerville Ward 7 resident. I am writing to express grief and dismay about the tragedy that took place on Friday, and ask that you all lead the effort to make sure such a tragedy does not happen in Somerville again. We need traffic calming measures *beyond* what is already planned for Powder House Blvd as soon as possible. A raised crosswalk planned for the intersection with Hardan Rd was delayed too long and was left off the final design, which is unacceptable. The city cannot cut corners on people's safety.

Powder House Blvd is also due to get protected bike lanes along a stretch near the rotary. The city should not wait to install these. We can't afford to wait for more injuries and deaths before we redesign our roads toward safety over speed.

We need faster implementation of traffic calming and pedestrian and bicycle safety projects throughout Somerville. The city needs to accelerate its implementation of quick build projects in areas it knows to be dangerous.

Please, make VisionZero not just a faraway goal, but an immediate priority. We can't let this happen again.

Thank you,
Nate Kaufman
56 Gorham St, Somerville 02144

John Long

From: Emily Newmann <emilynnewmann@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 1:32 PM
To: Mayor; City Council; somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org; City Clerk Contact
Subject: BIke Safety

Urgent: People are getting killed unnecessarily!

- We need the traffic calming measures **beyond** that which is already planned for Powder House Blvd **as soon as possible**. A raised crosswalk planned for the intersection with Hardan Rd was delayed too long and was left off the final design. The city cannot cut corners on people's safety.
- Powder House Blvd is also due to get **protected bike lanes** along a stretch near the rotary. The city should not wait for another fatality to install these.
- We need faster implementation of traffic calming and bicycle safety projects **all through Somerville**. The city needs to accelerate its implementation of quick build projects in areas it knows to be dangerous.

Concerned Citizen,
Emily Newmann

John Long

From: Michelle Lahey <michelleplahey@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 3:07 PM
To: Mayor; City Council
Cc: City Clerk Contact; somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org
Subject: Traffic calming measures necessary

Dear folks,

We need the traffic calming measures beyond that which is already planned for Powder House Blvd. as soon as possible. A raised crosswalk planned for the intersection with Hardan Rd. was delayed too long and was left off the final design. The city cannot cut corners on people's safety.

Powder House Blvd. is also due to get protected bike lanes along a stretch near the rotary. **The city should not wait for another fatality to install these.**

We need faster implementation of traffic calming and bicycle safety projects all through Somerville. The city needs to accelerate its implementation of quick build projects in areas it knows to be dangerous.

Please act quickly.

Thank you,

--

Michelle Lahey

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John Long

From: Cathy M. <cathy.melnikow@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 11:31 PM
To: Mayor; City Council; somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org; City Clerk Contact
Subject: Letter from a formerly reckless driver

Dear City Council,

I am a biker in Somerville.

I am terrified every day when I get on my bike. I know there are times when I could be more careful, I know there are times when my lights could be brighter, but I tend to bike quite safely the majority of the time---mostly I am scared because I know what it's like to drive.

When I commuted 25 miles to work everyday, roaring through the streets of Cambridge/Somerville seemed like nothing. It was my home turf. I'd typically just had 40 minutes alone in my head, after long stressful days of work, often late for some event, and so glad to be almost to my destination-- I definitely didn't pay attention nearly as much as I should, or drive as carefully as I should.

To me,
Roads with potholes were a game of how much you know the street, and you focus on the road and not the surroundings.

Intersections were a challenge to know exactly how long it was between the light changing, and if I should make sure to sneak through when yellow.

The Boston-left was one of the ways that I felt like a true Bostonian--but I knew I really had to go quickly to succeed. Bike Lanes and bikers were terrifying--since I knew they could come out of anywhere and were hard to see. Intersections with poor quality or lack of directions were made to break the rules.

What I'm (very loquaciously) trying to say is that, I believe myself to be a good person; I care about others and my neighborhood, yet I still did so many stupid things while driving in my car. I am so thankful that I never hurt anybody or myself.

I am also saying that there are things we can do to make the streets safer. I think drivers will always be like I was, to some degree, but there are things we can do to force these drivers to realize they need to be more careful, **and create these mental triggers**. A lot of these things are tactics that are already planned and have been proven to work (in our community and others).

If funding is an issue, please ask the community for support. Most people could paint lines or set up cones. Many could do other simple physical labors as well. Somerville is a community that we're all proud to be a part of. Let us help make it better, so that we can create even more of these things to keep us all safe.

I'm sorry that something terrible has to happen for people to speak up about these sort of things. We have been making progress, but there is so much more to do.

Thank you for your service, and I wish that none of us have to go through another pedestrian or bicycle death in our city.

Sincerely,
-Cathy

John Long

From: Eve Manghis <emanghis@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 12:55 PM
To: Mayor; City Council
Cc: somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org; City Clerk Contact
Subject: Somerville Bike Safety

Hello,

I am a former resident of Somerville and a current resident of Cambridge. I was deeply saddened to hear of the tragic event on Powder House Blvd and I am writing to ask for your support and dedication to change.

We need the traffic calming measures beyond that which is already planned for Powder House Blvd as soon as possible. A raised crosswalk planned for the intersection with Hardan Rd was delayed too long and was left off the final design. The city cannot cut corners on people's safety.

Powder House Blvd is also due to get protected bike lanes along a stretch near the rotary. The city should not wait for another fatality to install these.

We need faster implementation of traffic calming and bicycle safety projects all through Somerville. The city needs to accelerate its implementation of quick build projects in areas it knows to be dangerous. Tell your elected officials which areas are most dangerous to you.

I hope you will consider these requests.

Sincerely,
Eve Manghis

John Long

From: Annelise Blomberg <annelise.j.blomberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 1:19 PM
To: Mayor; City Council; jt@jtforward2.com
Cc: somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org; City Clerk Contact
Subject: Powder House Blvd

Dear Mayor Curtatone and City Council,

I am writing regarding the tragic accident that happened at Powder House Blvd this week.

As tragic as it is, this accident should not be a surprise. It was only a matter of time given how dangerous Powder House Square and Powder House Blvd are. This is one of the few areas in Somerville that my husband and I refuse to cycle through, despite being daily bike commuters. Even as drivers, we have regularly commented on how dangerous this intersection and road are for pedestrians and how fast cars speed through the area. I was saddened to find out this week that there had been earlier discussions of traffic calming measures that had never been implemented.

It is critical that we move ahead with traffic calming measures on Powder House Blvd. We cannot wait any longer for raised crosswalks and protected bike lanes. In addition, I ask that you redesign Powder House Circle to improve safety for all users, but especially pedestrians and cyclists.

Finally, I ask you to work proactively to a true Vision Zero. We cannot keep reacting to tragedies after they happen. We need to make it safe for pedestrians and cyclists to share our streets, especially as we work to lower our collective greenhouse gas emissions. My husband and I would bike through Powder House regularly if we thought it was safe to do so. Please increase enforcement of speeding violations and support the bill in the state legislature for automated enforcement of speeding and red light violations. Reducing speed saves lives.

Thank you,
Annelise Blomberg
36 Lincoln Pkwy, Somerville