

John Long

From: Jessiaha <jessiaha@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 3:04 PM
To: Transportation; Mayor; City Council
Cc: City Clerk Contact; somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org; Ben Ewen-Campen
Subject: Protected Bike Lanes on Powder House Blvd

Dear Neighbors,

As a resident of Somerville and a bike commuter, I write to express my opinion with respect to the proposed options for bike lane infrastructure at Powder House Blvd. Paint is not protection. Please consider implementing option 2, safe two-way protected bike lanes. Not only do protected bike lanes improve street safety, they encourage cycling and provide long term benefits to traffic, health, climate resilience, and many other areas of impact, the returns of which would surely justify the cost difference in option types.

Despite the fact that my household has a street-parked car, my preference for safe bike infrastructures outweighs my desire for parking availability. I feel that prioritizing parking over protected bike lanes values the needs of the individual over the greater good of the community. I would hate to lose this opportunity to promote the long term health of the community.

Thank you for your time and contributions to making Somerville a better community for us all.

Happy cycling,
Jessiaha Adamopoulos
Ward 3

John Long

From: webmaster@somervillema.gov on behalf of Megan deLong via City of Somerville
<webmaster@somervillema.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 7:08 PM
To: John Long
Subject: SomervilleMA.gov website form submission: Contact Us

Submitted on Thursday, April 11, 2019 - 7:07pm Submitted by anonymous user: 209.6.230.143 Submitted values are:

Department: City Council
Name: Megan deLong
Email: magdelong@hotmail.com
Address: 134 Powder House Blvd APT. 1

Message:

Hello,

I'm not sure whom to contact about this, so if I do not have the right department please pass on my comments. I am a resident of Powderhouse Blvd.

for almost 15 years and wanted to pass on my thoughts about the bike lanes being proposed for Powderhouse Blvd. as I was not able to make it to the meeting that took place last night. I didn't see the information about it until it was too late for me to make it.

I strongly urge you to keep what parking we currently have available when installing the bike lanes (NOT the double bike lane I saw proposed). Like many of the long-term residents on this street, I live in a multi-family house so one driveway is not enough for all the residents of the house and we truly depend on having street parking available. While students may use bikes and not have cars, many of us who are long-term residents (who vote, and pay taxes) use cars for getting to work and family obligations, and it would be a great inconvenience to decrease the parking. We have already lost parking spots with the curb repairs that were recently made, and during snow emergencies and street cleaning days we would have even more trouble parking.

Also, the number of cyclists on this street is extremely limited so I'm not sure how many people it would truly benefit; even if the number of cyclists were to go up five or ten-fold there would still be few. Not to mention, a lot of both car traffic and bicycle traffic is commuters during rush hours, many of whom are not Somerville residents. I appreciate the safety issues and a bike lane sounds great if it doesn't take away parking, but for those of us who actually live here rather than just passing down the street on the way somewhere else, loss of parking spots would be a major burden and for me it would be a decline in quality of life.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Megan deLong

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.somervillema.gov/node/124/submission/4652>

John Long

From: Emma Lewin <ejlewin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2019 4:44 AM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: Two way bike lane on powder house boulevard please!

Hello there,

I am writing to you from the super incredible bike friendly country of the Netherlands (here for a few weeks for work but live in Cambridge). Their bike infrastructure is incredible. There are SO many cyclists and it is because they feel so safe. (okay okay, also because it is flat) For almost every road over 30 mph there is a completely separated bike path.

I was also recently in Ghent, Belgium, which is trying to become more bike friendly. Recently they have seen a huge increase in the number of cyclists, and a decrease of traffic congestion because of the money they put into bike lanes/infrastructure. They took some smaller streets and made them "bike streets" where only residents can take the streets in their cars, and the cars cannot pass the cyclists. They also made some roads completely closed to cars and only open to cyclists and pedestrians. Shops were worried about losing business, but in fact they have seen an increase in business because they can feel safe and comfortable biking with their family, and walking around the safe streets.

I feel super safe biking in Belgium and the Netherlands. When I bike in Cambridge I am constantly ready to be doored by someone. With a 2-way bike lane, I think you would help Cambridge to continue on its path of becoming a very bike friendly city! Of course even with a 2-way bike lane on Powder house bikers will still be vigilant.

Please please please help Cambridge to become the leader in the US for a bike-friendly city. It will help the city in so many other ways to have fewer cars and more cyclists.

Thank you very much for your time.

Warm regards,
Emma Lewin

John Long

From: Adam Beerman <adam.beerman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 2:26 PM
To: Transportation; citycouncil@comervillema.gov; Mayor
Cc: City Clerk Contact; somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org
Subject: Powderhouse Protected Bike Lanes

I will not be able to make the meeting tomorrow, but I live near powderhouse square and wanted to share my support for protected bike lanes!

I live in Somerville specifically because I love getting around by bike (usually BlueBikes), so I hope we can keep up the good work and continue to expand the bike infrastructure.

Thank you!

Adam Beerman
28 Elmwood St #1
Somerville, MA 02144

John Long

From: Rachel Thuerk <rjh2001@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2019 9:11 AM
To: Transportation; Mayor; City Council
Cc: City Clerk Contact; somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org
Subject: Protected Bike Lanes on Powderhouse - Support

Good Morning,

My name is Rachel Thuerk, and I live in West Somerville just north of Powderhouse Blvd. I have one child currently in Kindergarten at WSNS, another currently in ECIP, who will be attending WSNS in the fall, and a third who needs to grow a few years before entering SPS. I am writing in support of removing one lane of parking on Powderhouse Blvd in order to upgrade the biking facilities to protected lanes in both directions. We are a bike-heavy, car-light family, and plan on leaning further into this arrangement as our children grow up. I currently bike as my main mode of transportation year round and frequently carry one or both of my older children on the back, including a daily trip along Powderhouse from WSNS to Capuano.

Protected bike lanes will not only make current cyclists safer, they will encourage new ridership, better connect the neighborhood for current and future families, and improve bike access across the city via the planned re-do of the rotary and Broadway facilities. This is an investment in what we want the future of Somerville to be, a city that is designed to be safe and welcoming for all modes of transport.

I attended Tuesday night's informational meeting at WSNS and plan on attending the May 22nd meeting as well, but I also wanted to put my support in writing to you all.

Many thanks,

Rachel

John Long

From: Michael Heyman <mheyman@berklee.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2019 12:20 PM
To: Transportation; City Clerk Contact
Cc: City Council; Mayor; somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org
Subject: Bike safety at Powderhouse Square

Hello,

I'm just writing to express my support for the bike safety efforts around Powderhouse Square. This is a dangerous area for cyclists, and a protected bike lane is the best way to keep us safe and encourage bike commuting. I live nearby, around Teele Square, and so this directly affects my bike commute.

Thank you!

Best,
Michael

Dr. Michael Heyman
Somerville resident