

## John Long

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**From:** Gordon Marx <gcm Marx@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 08, 2019 9:48 AM  
**To:** Transportation; Mayor; City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk Contact; somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org  
**Subject:** paint is not protection!

Hello, Transportation Department, Mayor Curtatone, and City Councillors!

Powder House Boulevard has two options for bike infrastructure under consideration; one is good and safe and will allow me, a Somerville resident and taxpayer, to confidently ride my bike in more of our wonderful city, and one is to put down some paint and sharrows. I know that paint is attractive, but it is unsafe. Please take my tax dollars and use them to make Somerville a safer and better place to live!

Protected bike lanes are the only responsible choice. Make the responsible choice. The lives of your citizens are literally at stake.

Thanks,  
Gordon Marx  
11 Bowdoin St.  
Somerville For Life

**John Long**

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**Subject:** FW: Somerville: Support Protected Bike Lanes on Powder House Blvd

**From:** Jason Livingston [<mailto:jlivingston@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 08, 2019 10:04 AM  
**To:** Transportation; Mayor; City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk Contact; [somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org](mailto:somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Somerville: Support Protected Bike Lanes on Powder House Blvd

Dear Somerville folks with the ability to fix this,

"Paint is not protection." Every day I commute less than 3 miles across Somerville from East to West. It's not even the full width of our fair city. The only truly "protected" areas of this trip are the ~10' in Porter that's a sidewalk extension (but is still very dangerous, we can discuss this another time) and the ~10' in Union Sq that is currently bikes only due to construction and is protected by chainlink fences.

The rest of the 2.7 miles, I'm in painted bike lanes dodging uber drivers, unmarked amazon deliver vans, city buses, and everyone who puts their hazard lights on (or doesn't) because "it'll only be a minute and they need to put there care *somewhere*." I don't have pictures or videos of these 5-10 vehicles I see *each way every day* because I'm busy trying to stay alive.

Luckily for you, you can see them on twitter here: <https://twitter.com/cambikelanes>  
It's called "Cambridge Bike Lanes" but I'm sure you'll be able to recognize all the Somerville pictures.

Please scroll through these pictures. I hope it helps you understand why "Paint is not protection."

Sincerely,  
A daily Somerville bicycle commuter

----- Forwarded message -----  
From: **Cambridge Bike Safety** <[somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org](mailto:somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org)>  
Date: Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 9:37 AM  
Subject: Somerville: Support Protected Bike Lanes on Powder House Blvd  
To: <[jlivingston@gmail.com](mailto:jlivingston@gmail.com)>

Hi Somerville neighbors,



Powder House Blvd has two options for bike infrastructure:

1. UNSAFE: A painted lane going in one direction and only sharrows in the other.
2. SAFE: A safe low stress two-way protected bike lane.

The design with protected bike lanes is the preferred option of the Somerville Bike Committee because it is safe infrastructure for people who bike. However the option with protected bike lanes would require some parking removal so the city is collecting feedback to make sure that they understand what the community wants.

The city of Somerville is asking for your feedback! They are asking for your input **this Wednesday** and also two other dates in the near future:

- Wednesday, April 10, 6-8 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 23, 6-8 p.m.
- Thursday, April 25, 6-8 p.m.

They are collecting feedback at the Front Lobby of West Somerville Neighborhood School, located at 177 Powder House Blvd. Please show up and tell them that you want to see a design with protected bike lanes because **protected bike lanes save lives**.

It's more valuable to tell city staff in person which design you prefer, but if you can't make it, send an email saying that **paint is not protection** and that you want the option with protected bike lanes. Write to [transportation@somervillema.gov](mailto:transportation@somervillema.gov), [mayor@somervillema.gov](mailto:mayor@somervillema.gov), [citycouncil@somervillema.gov](mailto:citycouncil@somervillema.gov), and CC [cityclerk@somervillema.gov](mailto:cityclerk@somervillema.gov) and [somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org](mailto:somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org).

Thanks,

-your neighbors at Cambridge Bicycle Safety

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Sent via [ActionNetwork.org](https://www.actionnetwork.org). To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Cambridge Bicycle Safety, please [click here](#).

## John Long

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**From:** Charles Petersen <charles.a.petersen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 08, 2019 10:09 AM  
**To:** Transportation; Mayor; City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk Contact; somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org  
**Subject:** Protected Bike Lanes on Powderhouse Boulevard

Hi there,

I am a Somerville resident and voter. I live at 140 Summer St. I am also a year-round bicyclist who bikes everywhere in the city. And I'm someone who was hit by a car just a little less than a year ago, and I'm still getting over the effects of the concussion I got from that accident.

I am writing to say how strongly I support the proposal for a 2-way protected bike path on Powder House Boulevard. I already ride on Powder House and find it very dangerous. Obviously adding some paint for a bike line would be nice. But bike lanes, as I found out in my own accident, and as I believe the statistics show, really don't offer much if any protection. You're still at risk of moving cars turning into you and parked cars opening their doors.

The only real safety for a cyclist, I know from continual personal experience, is a truly separate bike lane. And adding such a lane on Powder House will make a huge difference for the bike infrastructure in Somerville. I hope you will implement what is the only truly safe option. I have a new helmet, but I worry every day what getting hit by another car would do to me. With a protected bike lane, I know that I'll be safe.

All best,  
-Charles Petersen  
140 Summer St.  
Somerville, MA

**John Long**

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**From:** Amanda Rychel <alrychel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 08, 2019 10:26 AM  
**To:** Transportation; Mayor; City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk Contact; somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org  
**Subject:** paint is not protection

To Whom it May Concern,

The City of Somerville has two options proposed for adding bicycle infrastructure to Powderhouse Blvd. One is paint. Paint does not keep cars from parking, driving or otherwise potentially killing cyclists in a bike lane. Since the corridor has had such a problem with pedestrian and bicycle safety, this is the moment to make the best decisions for our citizen's future. Children and families will be able to safely bike to school if a fully protected bike lane is installed. This is in line with Somerville's stated goal of getting people out of cars and also in line with Vision Zero. Please do not prioritize the storage of personal vehicles on our public way over the safety of our families who would like to travel by bicycle through West Somerville. A few parking spots lost are well worth the benefits- the math makes sense to put protected lanes in here.

Thank you,  
Amanda Rychel  
Ward 6

**John Long**

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**Subject:** FW: Somerville: Support Protected Bike Lanes on Powder House Blvd

**From:** Jonah Elgart [<mailto:jonah.elgart@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 08, 2019 3:24 PM  
**To:** Transportation; Mayor; City Council  
**Cc:** Cambridge Bicycle Safety; City Clerk Contact  
**Subject:** Fwd: Somerville: Support Protected Bike Lanes on Powder House Blvd

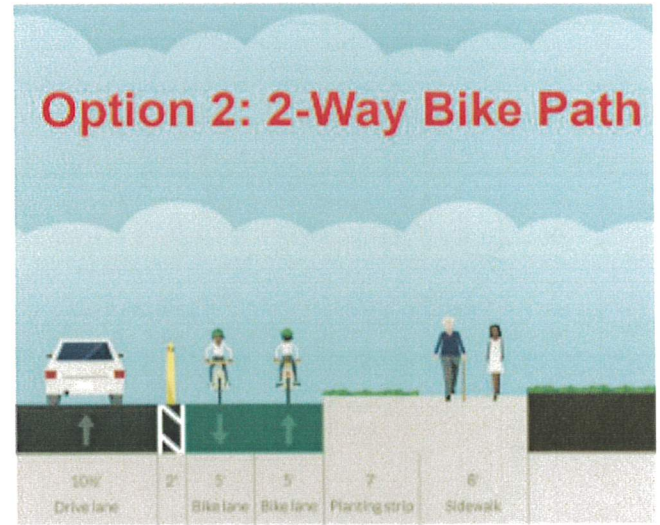
It was brought to my attention that powder house blvd is being redesigned with bike lanes, and that public feedback is being considered. I am a Somerville resident and landlord. Whenever possible, I strongly support segregated bike infrastructure, and support removal of parking to accomplish it, if necessary. I favor the 2-way protected bike lane being promoted by Somerville Bike Committee.

Thank you,

Jonah Elgart  
183 School St  
Somerville, MA 02145

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Cambridge Bike Safety <[somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org](mailto:somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org)>  
**Subject:** Somerville: Support Protected Bike Lanes on Powder House Blvd  
**Date:** April 8, 2019 at 9:37:17 AM EDT  
**To:** [jonah.elgart@gmail.com](mailto:jonah.elgart@gmail.com)  
**Reply-To:** [somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org](mailto:somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org)  
Hi Somerville neighbors,



Powder House Blvd has two options for bike infrastructure:

1. UNSAFE: A painted lane going in one direction and only sharrows in the other.
2. SAFE: A safe low stress two-way protected bike lane.

The design with protected bike lanes is the preferred option of the Somerville Bike Committee because it is safe infrastructure for people who bike. However the option with protected bike lanes would require some parking removal so the city is collecting feedback to make sure that they understand what the community wants.

The city of Somerville is asking for your feedback! They are asking for your input **this Wednesday** and also two other dates in the near future:

- Wednesday, April 10, 6-8 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 23, 6-8 p.m.
- Thursday, April 25, 6-8 p.m.

They are collecting feedback at the Front Lobby of West Somerville Neighborhood School, located at 177 Powder House Blvd. Please show up and tell them that you want to see a design with protected bike lanes because **protected bike lanes save lives**.

It's more valuable to tell city staff in person which design you prefer, but if you can't make it, send an email saying that **paint is not protection** and that you want the option with protected bike lanes. Write to [transportation@somervillema.gov](mailto:transportation@somervillema.gov), [mayor@somervillema.gov](mailto:mayor@somervillema.gov), [citycouncil@somervillema.gov](mailto:citycouncil@somervillema.gov), and CC [cityclerk@somervillema.gov](mailto:cityclerk@somervillema.gov) and [somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org](mailto:somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org).

Thanks,

-your neighbors at Cambridge Bicycle Safety

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via [ActionNetwork.org](https://www.actionnetwork.org). To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Cambridge Bicycle Safety, please [click](#)

## John Long

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**From:** Emily Warren <emilycastorwarren@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 09, 2019 12:40 PM  
**To:** Transportation; Mayor; City Council; City Clerk Contact; somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org  
**Subject:** Please choose safe, protected bike lanes for Powder House Blvd

Dear Mayor Curtatone and Somerville City Council,

I am writing to urge you to select the "Option B" design under consideration for new bike lanes on Powder House Boulevard. This option will provide a much safer facility for cyclists by 1) including a true protected design with flex-posts separating riders from cars, 2) protecting riders in both directions of travel.

In contrast, the "Option A" design leaves cyclists with no protection in one direction, and inadequate protection in the other. The only argument for Option A is the preservation of street parking, but recent parking counts performed by community groups indicate that the current volume of car parking on that corridor could still be accommodated even if street parking were removed on one side. That means there is no good reason to oppose "Option B."

My husband and I live in the Ball Square area. We moved to Somerville a little under a year ago, and when we moved here, we chose to sell our cars and live car-free. We get around by walking, biking, public transit, and shared mobility. We do not benefit from the allocation of excessive public space to parking, but we do benefit a lot from bike lanes, because they make it safer, quicker, and more appealing for us to travel around Somerville by bike.

In order to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities and greenhouse gas emissions associated with car travel, Somerville must show its commitment to Complete Streets. Please choose Option B and ensure true protected bike lanes on Powder House Blvd.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warmly,

Emily Warren  
77 Highland Rd, Somerville, MA 02144  
[@emilycwarren](#) | [Connect](#) | 202-374-6610



**John Long**

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**From:** Joanie Weaver <weaver.joanie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 09, 2019 8:20 PM  
**To:** Transportation; Mayor; City Council  
**Cc:** City Clerk Contact; somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org  
**Subject:** Powder house blvd bike lane feedback

Hello,

My name is Joan "Joanie" Weaver and I'm a Somerville resident and frequently use my own bicycle or BlueBikes for transportation. I also own a vehicle and leverage street parking. I wanted to voice my feedback that I prefer the "Option 2: 2-Way Bike Path" for the powder house vld bike infrastructure.

Thanks,  
Joanie Weaver

## John Long

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**From:** Ali Kleyman <alikleyma@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 9:14 PM  
**To:** Transportation; Mayor; City Council; City Clerk Contact; somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org  
**Cc:** Sean Horgan  
**Subject:** Please choose safe, protected bike lanes for Powder House Blvd

Dear Mayor Curtatone and Somerville City Council,

I am writing to urge you to select the "Option B" design under consideration for new bike lanes on Powder House Boulevard. This option will provide a much safer facility for cyclists by 1) including a true protected design with flex-posts separating riders from cars, 2) protecting riders in both directions of travel.

In contrast, the "Option A" design leaves cyclists with no protection in one direction, and inadequate protection in the other. The only argument for Option A is the preservation of street parking, but recent parking counts performed by community groups indicate that the current volume of car parking on that corridor could still be accommodated even if street parking were removed on one side. That means there is no good reason to oppose "Option B."

My husband and I own a home on Dow Street and have lived here with our almost 5 year old twins since 2014. We feel extremely lucky everyday to live in Somerville and to be able to rely on transit and walking to get to the majority of places we need to go during the week. Our kids are in pre-K at WSNS, and while we love the school, we remain quite concerned about the safety of pedestrians in the neighborhood. As I stand at the crosswalk waiting to cross the street after school with my kids, several cars continue to drive by us even with the improvements made in the past two months since Allison's death. The removal of parking, the addition of protected bike lanes, and the reclaiming of public space for safer, higher-quality bike and pedestrian facilities will encourage the use of non-motorized modes for all ages, comfort levels, and abilities.

As a public servant myself, I know you all work very hard to make Somerville the best it can be in multiple areas. Thank you for all you do. Please choose Option B and ensure true protected bike lanes on Powder House Blvd.

Ali Kleyman  
10 Dow Street

## John Long

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**From:** Gideon Bein <gideon.bein@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 9:23 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Contact  
**Subject:** New Bike Lane Options on Powder House Boulevard

Dear Mayor Curtatone and Somerville City Council,

I am writing to urge you to select the "Option B" design under consideration for new bike lanes on Powder House Boulevard. This option will provide a much safer facility for cyclists by 1) including a true protected design with flex-posts separating riders from cars,  
2) protecting riders in both directions of travel.

In contrast, the "Option A" design leaves cyclists with no protection in one direction, and inadequate protection in the other. The only argument for Option A is the preservation of street parking, but recent parking counts performed by community groups indicate that the current volume of car parking on that corridor could still be accommodated even if street parking were removed on one side. That means there is no good reason to oppose "Option B."

I've been on Powder House Boulevard for 10 years and live with two roommates. My roommates and I travel using all forms transportation - walking, biking, public transit, and by personal car. We don't require additional public parking because we, like many of the houses on Powder House Boulevard, have private parking facilities. Having the proper cycling infrastructure in place would make it safer, quicker, and more appealing for us to travel around Somerville by bike.

In order to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities associated with car travel, Somerville must show its commitment to Complete Streets.

Please choose Option B and ensure true protected bike lanes on Powder House Blvd.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Gideon Bein  
64 Powder House Boulevard

**John Long**

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**From:** Jessica Garrett <jessicaegarrett@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 10:25 AM  
**To:** Transportation; Mayor; City Council  
**Cc:** somerville@cambridgebikesafety.org; City Clerk Contact; Ben Ligon  
**Subject:** Somerville bike lanes on Powder house Blvd

To whom it may concern,

As dedicated bicyclists commuting to work, errands and pleasure, and the parents of a budding 8 year-old cyclist, we value any work the city does to make biking safer. We appreciate the new paint lanes and sharrows, and certain one-way streets allowing biking in both directions. But protected bike lanes are the best.

We choose biking over driving as often as we can because we know it helps reduce traffic congestion and pollution. Ben is lucky enough to commute daily on the Minuteman path. On many roads in Somerville, we find it incredibly stressful to bike in a painted lane between rushing traffic and parked cars, whose doors can open at any moment. When biking with our son, we bike on sidewalks (where allowed) because the roads are not safe for a learning cyclist (and often not safe for experienced ones). When biking on Powder House Blvd to the West Somerville Neighborhood School we often choose sidewalks because we just don't feel safe.

A 2-way protected bike lane is our preferred design. As more people choose cycling because it is safer, and perhaps get rid of a car as we did, there will be less need for parking.

Thank you for all you do,  
Jessica Garrett and Ben Ligon  
63 Hall Ave, Somerville