

Madalyn Letellier

From: Bridget Duffy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 1:52 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Fwd: Municipal Road Safety Grant: Cyclist Concerns

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Hello,

I am a resident on Morton St. in East Somerville. I urge you to rewrite the grant application named in the subject line to exclude enforcement against cyclists performing the "Idaho Stop" (treating red lights and stop signs as a yield).

I use a bicycle to get around Somerville for errands due to its environmentally friendly nature and health benefits. However, the number-one threat to my safety as a cyclist is cars. Many drivers in Somerville do not follow good practices with regards to cyclists, frequently even flouting traffic laws to do so. One of the most nerve-wracking parts of biking in our community is when a traffic light turns green. While cars two feet from me begin suddenly whizzing by, I struggle to manually speed up quickly to keep myself safe and moving with traffic.

Performing an Idaho Stop allows cyclists to continue moving when safe, which means we are in motion with vehicles when they begin moving again.

Many states allow bicyclists to yield at stop signs and red lights and proceed when safe – commonly called the "Idaho Stop". The [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) has published a fact sheet detailing both the **personal safety benefits** for bicyclists as well as **environmental, traffic, and transportation benefits** for the public at large. Additionally, they found **no evidence that stop-as-yield laws increased bicycle conflicts with pedestrians or other riders**.

Last July, [City Council passed a resolution](#) requesting Somerville PD adopt a policy of de-prioritizing grant-funded enforcement against cyclists who perform "Idaho Stops". Somerville PD ignored this request and continued issuing citations – [this Reddit thread](#) looks into the correlation between grant funds and citation rates.

As a constituent and cyclist, I urge you to rewrite the grant application named in the subject line to exclude enforcement against cyclists performing the "Idaho Stop" (treating red lights and stop signs as a yield).

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Bridget J. Duffy
she/her

Madalyn Letellier

From: Naticia H [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 11:22 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Fwd: Please Vote No on Municipal Road Safety grant

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This email is from an external source. Use caution responding to it, opening attachments or clicking links.

Dear Somerville City Council and Mayor Ballantyne:

Please vote against the Municipal Road Safety grant as written. It is critical to re-write the grant to exclude enforcement against bicyclists, specifically enforcing the "Idaho Stop".

Many states allow bicyclists to yield at stop signs and red lights and proceed when safe – commonly called the "Idaho Stop". The [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) has published a fact sheet detailing both the **personal safety benefits** for bicyclists as well as environmental, traffic, and transportation benefits for the public at large. Additionally, they found no evidence that stop-as-yield laws increased bicycle conflicts with pedestrians or other riders.

Last July, the City Council passed a resolution requesting Somerville PD adopt a policy of de-prioritizing grant-funded enforcement against cyclists who perform "Idaho Stops". Somerville PD ignored this request and continued issuing citations – [this Reddit thread](#) looks into the correlation between grant funds and citation rates. Please do not let this continue for another year.

I know road safety is important to the Council and this administration, so using road safety funds to issue citations to bicyclists who follow best safety practices like the Idaho Stop does not align with your stated values and campaign platform.

Please do the right thing: stop penalizing bicyclist safety and vote "no" on the Municipal Road Safety grant.

Sincerely,
Naticia Hutchins
Ward 5