

View results

Respondent

43 Anonymous

16:53

Time to complete

1. First Name

Kathryne

2. Last Name

Benesh

3. Email Address

[Redacted]

4. Street Address

[Redacted]

5. Pronouns

[Redacted]

6. Age

[Redacted]

7. Are you interested in applying for SBAC, PTAC, or either?

- Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee (SBAC)
- Somerville Pedestrian & Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC)
- Either

8. Why are you interested in serving on the PTAC/SBAC?

I care deeply about the biking infrastructure in Somerville and want to help ensure that we continue to build safe and equitable infrastructure. Tactically, I would like to help review plans and help ensure that we are doing effective outreach and engagement, as well as tying into the broader Somerville Bike strategy/masterplan. From my experience working at the T, I know that often the loudest voices can outweigh the quieter perspective of many, and it takes different forms of listening to hear everyone. Also, that it is important to do the research and analysis (to show real parking utilization or explain what portion of a business' customers actually come from biking/walking vs. driving). I care passionately about biking (and active transportation in general) in Somerville, and want to do whatever I can to help it.

9. Please describe any relevant experiences. This could include employment responsibilities, volunteer work, club leadership, community organizing, or personal transit/biking/pedestrian enthusiasm.

I have am a lifelong bike commuter, biking to my first job at 14-15 and all through my 20's and 30's. Whether it be in the suburbs of Boston, downtown Chicago, or now in the Camberville area, it is and has always been my primary and preferred way of traveling. I have seen firsthand (and very gratefully!) the improvement we have made in creating safe bike options, and with it, the increased numbers and diversity of riders. I now ride with my 18-month old to/from work, which makes this even more important to me, as I want to be able to bike safely with him and not be forced to drive, as well as ensure he can bike when he is older. Furthermore, I recognize the complexities of creating bike infrastructure, that works with the often conflicting demands of private and commercial vehicles, buses, pedestrians and other roadway users. I want to help advance the conversation to expand our bike infrastructure, but do it in a way that is creating the most utility for all Somerville residents. Furthermore, I am employed by the MBTA (as their Chief of Operations Planning, Scheduling & Strategy), and am regularly involved in reviewing plans, developing strategies to move people more effectively, analysis and community engagement.