

From: [Chris Dwan](#)
To: [All City Council](#); [Mayor](#)
Cc: mike.connolly@mahouse.gov; [Jill Lathan](#); patricia.jehlen@masenate.gov; [REDACTED] [City Clerk Contact](#)
Subject: Pedestrian crossing at Webster and the Union Square T Stop
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 10:55:13 PM

Honorable Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to express concern about the dangerous nighttime conditions at the entrance to the Union Square T Stop. The lack of lighting for the pedestrian crossing at Weber is critically unsafe and creates an immediate risk that pedestrians will be struck by vehicles traveling in either direction. The two "pedestrian crossing" signs are inadequate without additional light to allow drivers to see people in the road. The sidewalk closure on the East side of Weber makes things worse, since it forces pedestrians into the street along the length of Weber between the station entrance and Somerville Ave.

In addition to the problem with the crossing, the ramp / tunnel between the sidewalk and the station is not lit, which creates a potentially dangerous environment. While it is true that people with concerns for their personal safety could use the elevator, it seems unconscionable to fail to light an enclosed space like this between a transit station and the nearest public way. I do not know whether this ramp is under the control of the construction crew, the MBTA, or the city. What I do know is that it is unsafe and obviously neglected by all three.

I rode the T home this evening and was frankly horrified to see members of the Friday evening crowd stumbling off the darkened ramp and directly into an un-lit and heavily traveled street. Please see the attached pictures, paying particular attention to the pedestrians who remain nearly invisible despite the remarkable low-light capabilities of my phone camera.

Sadly, this is not a new situation. City Council order 214078, from July 14 of 2022, asked that the Commissioner of Public Works "install additional lighting at this location to increase visibility at night." This has clearly not happened in the subsequent six months.

I would very much appreciate your immediate attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

Chris Dwan
Ward 2 Resident



