

**From:** [Jim Sumner](#)  
**To:** [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)  
**Cc:** [Jim Sumner](#)  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting/ items 307-23 and 308-24  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 7:03:50 AM

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Dear Ms. Desiderio,

Please share the below comments at this evenings City Council Meeting as I may not be able to attend and speak for myself.

Thank you

James Sumner  
759 Highland Ave  
Malden MA 02148

September 5, 2023

Dear City Council,

I am writing today in support of the non-binding ballot question initiatives items 307-23 and 308-24. I want to be sure the council is aware that I am not opposed to sharing the streets but I am opposed to the haphazard way the city has laid out the bike routes and bus lanes. I support a full stop of any more bus/bike lanes, removal of the dangerous bike lane on route 60 and no additional curb bumps out until a vote can be taken to hear what the voters of Malden have to say.

While the most egregious example of bus/bike lane failure is Route 60 through the center of Malden, by placing bikes between cars and buses on a very busy roadway. There are many other examples of poor bike lane planning. For instance, outside my door on Highland Ave we have bike lanes that are currently being used by cars as passing lanes. Although this issue has been reported to the city and my ward councilor nothing has been done to alleviate this dangerous behavior. All of which is a result of narrowing automobile travel lanes and poorly laid out paint markings that clearly show drivers there is enough space for this reckless driving to occur. This particular stretch of Highland Ave is wide enough to accommodate bikes and cars without the narrowing of automobile travel lanes. The fact is less than a quarter mile down Highland Ave, no bike lane exists nor is there any room for a bike lane. I do believe the one or two bikes that travel past my house may continue on those roads with no bike lanes and so far, I have not heard of accidents as a result of bikes sharing the road without bike lanes. As far as buses I would hope the city leaders would be working with the MBTA to slow the buses down as they travel through the city rather than give them private lanes to speed in. I know even without private bus lanes they speed on a routine basis down Highland Ave. The curb bump outs in my opinion are also a dangerous addition to the city. Not only are they taking away potential parking they impede larger trucks, buses and even some cars from making safe turns.

The time is now for city leaders to listen to all of the Malden voters not just a few, before any

more planning mistakes are made. If the city has to give money back to correct the errors on route 60 then that is what should be done. Retiming lights, as some have suggested, is not going to alleviate the fact that one automobile travel lane was taken in each direction from one of the busiest roads in the city.

I hope the council will pass this initiative and get these two ballot questions out so you, our elected officials, can be operating on what the voter wants. Not what the state or federal government requires of the city to get road funding.

Sincerely

James Sumner  
759 Highland Ave  
Malden MA 02148

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