

**From:** [Gary Chin](#)  
**To:** [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)  
**Subject:** Support of bike and bus lanes/transit infrastructure, Agenda items 307-23 and 308-23  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 4:01:55 PM

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My name is Gary Chin, resident of 557 Salem St, Malden, MA 02148. I am emailing on behalf of city council meeting agenda items 307-23 and 308-23.

Dear Malden City Council,

As a resident who cherishes this city, I urge you to carefully consider the impact of potentially removing bike and transit infrastructure from our streets.

This is not only about alleviating traffic congestion, but dignifying people so that they have a right to travel through our city. Safety must remain at the forefront of our priorities. We all want our streets to be safe for all residents, whether they are bicyclists, pedestrians, or drivers. It is crucial to acknowledge that the presence of bike lanes and transit infrastructure contributes significantly to this safety. While some argue that these additions have led to increased traffic congestion on Route 60, we must recognize that the true issue lies in the mismatched traffic signal timing. It's not the bike lanes and transit infrastructure causing the congestion, but rather a solvable problem related to traffic management.

Furthermore, it's essential to understand that removing this infrastructure could result in our city failing to meet Complete Streets requirements. Complete Streets policies emphasize that our roads should be designed to safely accommodate all users, including cyclists and pedestrians. Removing bike lanes and transit infrastructure would not align with these requirements and could have negative impacts on the budget as well as potential consequences regarding funding for future transportation projects.

I understand that there is a proposal to include a question on the ballot that would remove this infrastructure. However, I implore you to consider the bigger picture. Bike lanes and transit infrastructure not only enhance safety but also promote a healthier and more sustainable way of life. They encourage an active community, reduce our carbon footprint, and ensure that our city complies with important transportation standards.

Rather than focusing solely on their removal, let us address the root cause of the traffic congestion issue – the traffic signal timing. By doing so, we can maintain our commitment to safety, adhere to Complete Streets requirements, and ensure the wise use of our city's budget. This solution keeps intact the valuable infrastructure that contributes positively to our city.

As we approach the decision regarding the inclusion of this question on the ballot, let's remember that our primary goal is to make Malden a better place to live. Let's invest in safer streets, stronger communities, and healthier lives by addressing the traffic signal timing issue rather than removing the bike lanes and transit infrastructure outright. Our future can be one where we coexist harmoniously, with safe streets for all and a city that meets the standards of modern transportation. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,  
Gary Chin

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