

From: [Tiana L](#)
To: [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)
Subject: Statement for Items 307-23 and 308-24
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 1:11:34 PM

Good afternoon,

I would like to put on record my statement for pro-bike and bus lanes as I am aware public comment is limited. These are for Items 307-23 and 308-24.

I think the bike and bus lanes were a great improvement to the Malden community and I would very much love for them to remain. I also love that we have the Northern Strand trail - I remember growing up it was just train tracks with grassy overgrowth. Having bus and bikes lane enhances such a neat feature that not many cities are lucky to have. I love what Malden is becoming and very much want to be a home owner here. I was so incredibly lucky my family raised us here and I wish to stay!

I wish I could bike on the sidewalks because I am fearful to bike on the streets, but the rules are the rules. I know sidewalks can be full of pedestrians and I don't want to crash into them either. I appreciate the Northern Strand trail and the bike lanes and try to use the Strand as much as possible.

In terms of the bus lanes, buses carry more people per bus than a single car - me included! I think it makes sense to keep a large number of people moving this way, and it even incentivizes use of busses. They reduce the number of cars on the road which is beneficial to the environment and also for drivers, they want less cars on the road, right? For every person in a bus or using a bike is one less car on the road! Public transportation is disability friendly (not everyone can drive), and are also income friendly which can provide the young and lower income with rides to and from to their places of education and employment not in walking distance. Environmentally conscious people appreciate the option of using buses or bikes, and some people are utilitarian and time-crunched, they appreciate squeezing their exercise in by biking as a commute. We are all entitled to options, and sure, I believe services that help many people in one go should get preferential treatment. Plus, if people think driving is so great, maybe they can understand how much they would appreciate the wiggle room suggested here to make public transportation not as cumbersome, because one day they may have to resort to using a bike or taking a bus.

I think the bigger issue here may be the stop lights on Centre Street by the parking garages - they aren't needed (anymore). Or at least make them way more infrequent. Are those parking garages even full with the DOE leaving and remote work still taking a stronghold? Make these things more annoying; it may incentivize public transportation commuting. I understand it may also be a speed reducer measure, but there are much longer stretches of road without traffic lights. Don't be afraid to pull over drivers that speed! Get that city income! Drivers will learn what is annoying and avoid those ways in the future - drivers are resourceful and resilient, just look at how popular Waze has become! Those stop lights being more infrequent or even being replaced by Yield or Stop signs on those side streets would be a win for everyone!

I also think the stop light on Exchange St by Main St is not completely necessary. It causes back up with the buses not being able to pull up closer and blocks Centre street thru traffic. People driving down that little stretch of Exchange can instead take a right on Middlesex St especially if you put a One Way sign on that little stretch, the way you do at City Hall. It might be a little bit annoying, but they're in a car. It's like a 30 second detour to go around, and driving doesn't take much physical exertion. Or they can take a left at Middlesex and go up Dartmouth St instead. More longer of a detour, but options are options. Again, if it is annoying to drivers, they will adjust in the future. Many of us use Google Maps, Apple Maps, or Waze. There is a traffic light at the square/Pleasant St entrance anyway - having 3 lights within feet of each other is messy. Also, with a day care center being right there, maybe its better that traffic is just one way to reduce car traffic around infants and children. I don't think there are any other businesses in that little stretch of Exchange St that people visit. Hobby Bunker is gone now.

I don't have a car by choice (meaning I can afford it and don't have a disability.) I commute mostly by walking and taking busses and sometimes using a bicycle (I am also sometimes a passenger in other cars or Ubers.) I do agree traffic is annoying in that section and relate to the naysayers there, but I do not think traffic issues is caused by the newly implemented bus or bike lanes. We've always had traffic, even before more people rightfully chose to call Malden their home. Also, there are no bus or bike lanes on Pleasant St heading into Medford, so what is the excuse for traffic there?

I think having that option of bike and bus lanes here makes our city more desireable to many kinds of newcomers. And who doesn't love new people and new ideas coming into our community?

I also kind of suspect a group pushing their anti bike and bus lane agenda. I witnessed (and took a picture to document) people enjoying their time on their porch when a woman in a uniform went up to the with the signs and asked if they can be placed on their lawn since they are on a bus stop. I feel this was an intimidation/manipulative tactic. I think those signs should be sought out by those who are unhappy with the lanes and not put upon by people wearing uniforms to push a selfish agenda.

My name is Tiana LeBlanc, over at 12 Porter Street in Malden (can this be redacted if posted?) Thank you for your time.

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