

From: [Calvin Pomerantz](#)
To: [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)
Subject: City Council Meeting Statement
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 2:51:53 PM

Hi Carol,

My name is Calvin Pomerantz and I live at 87 Cedar St Apt 10. Feel free to publish my name, but please redact my address. I am writing about agenda items 307-23 and 308-24.

I would like to write in support of keeping the existing bike and bus lanes present in the City of Malden, and against the ballot measure designed to remove them. I live in Malden, and although I have my license and I very rarely rent a ZipCar, I do not own a car myself. I am therefore dependent on public transportation, bicycling, and walking for my own transportation needs.

I understand the frustration experienced by drivers stuck in traffic. Before the pandemic I had a 20 mile commute by car, so this was my reality. It may surprise regular drivers to learn that cycling and transit advocates are actually their allies. Every person riding a bus, or on a bicycle, is someone who isn't driving a car. Everyone who isn't driving a car, is helping improve traffic. It may be counterintuitive, but any measure that improves transit ridership and bicycle usage, also improves traffic for drivers. This is true even if it nominally decreases road capacity.

Cycling on the road without the protection of a bike lane is simply unsafe, and I very rarely do it. Even the existing Centre Street bike lane is extremely inadequate and dangerous, as it is possible to be sideswiped by a car changing lanes without looking. The solution is to build better bike lanes, not remove them. The bike lane on Exchange Street is a good model - if we built a network of lanes such as that, and installed protected turns at intersections, you would see many more people on bikes. You would then see less cars on the road, less traffic, and less demand for parking spots. The same is true for expanding bus lanes.

Help support our city's environmental goals, improve road safety, and make the city more liveable for everyone (including drivers). Expand bus and bike lanes, don't remove them.

- Calvin Pomerantz

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