

From: [Shane L](#)
To: [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)
Cc: [Barbara Murphy](#)
Subject: Public comment on City Council agenda items 307-23 and 308-24
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 11:57:58 AM

(CCed to Barbara Murphy, Ward 5 Councilor)

Dear Carol Ann,

I am a Malden resident of Ward 5 submitting a public comment to the City Council on today's items 307-23 and 308-24. Please see my comment below, with my name and address appended.

Dear Councilors:

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on the proposals to put two ballot questions related to bicycle and bus lanes on the November ballot. Malden needs more support for bicycles, buses, and other ways to get around that aren't private autos. 40% of Maldonians don't own a car, which means that we rely on public transit, bicycles, skateboards, and feet to get around. We vote, we pay taxes, and we care about our natural and built environments not being dominated by auto pollution and dangerous motorized traffic. I specifically chose to buy a house in Malden because of the bicycle and bus lanes on Center Street.

Malden has a long history as a working class city, and the average cost of a new car is now well over \$25,000. That's going to make driving unaffordable for more and more Maldonians over time. Our city's public policy should not be dictated solely by people wealthy enough to own their own cars. I understand the concerns of residents who want this issue to be up for a vote, and I'm concerned that holding a ballot referendum on the bike and bus lanes would ignore the transportation needs of our less-wealthy immigrant neighbors who are not yet able to vote in local elections.

Please vote NO on agenda items 307-23 and 308-24.

Regards,

Shane Landrum, Ph.D.
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Malden, MA 02148

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