

From: [Marie](#) on behalf of [M](#)
To: [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)
Subject: Opposition to breathtakingly backwards "bike lane ban"
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 6:51:44 AM

Hello city admins,

I just learned about councilperson Sica's breathtakingly backwards idea to ban/remove bike lanes from parts of Malden, which already has too few, and poorly-maintained bike lanes, not to mention extremely inadequate bus-stops (no benches or covered areas, etc) -- public transit around here could *really* use a lift! But apparently some people are only interested in speeding up transit...a little...for the relatively small portion of people who drive. (Which, of course, will cause more people to drive, which will cause more and slower traffic. Then what? Get rid of sidewalks so it can go faster again?)

Nor do they seem to care that for many important people who *live here*, bikes and busses are the only option, meaning that an car-exclusive stance isn't just anti-environmental (and anti-public spaces and wasteful), it's also an open violation of the human rights of folks who happen to be elderly, disabled, minors, or unable or unwilling to spend a ton of money owning a car. I propose the shocking counter-idea that those people have just as much right to get around our city. (I can't believe that idea even needs proposing, but here we are.)

How embarrassing for Malden, to even have this question being argued publicly. We're clearly one of the local cities that needs BETTER bike & bus infrastructure urgently, and we have a councilor whipping up the Clueless Old Contingent to try and give more space to cars, which already have 90% of all the traffic-space, just so they can go a little faster -- i.e. even less safely. Big yikes.

I live near Malden Center, which is absolutely choked with cars, and would be less choked if it were easier for not-cars to get around. (The idea that cars having to slow down for non-car traffic is "a problem" is a pure fantasy by impatient drivers. I say this as a driver and car-owner myself. Going a little slower to make way for less-impactful traffic is a GOOD THING.) My friends who've recently bought homes in different parts of Malden are just as horrified and opposed to this proposed "bike lane ban" as I am. Sica's classist, backwards idea is the exact opposite of what Malden needs.

Best,
Marie Staver
44 Park St, Malden

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