

**From:** [Brooke Ashleigh](#)  
**To:** [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)  
**Subject:** Please support safe and equitable transportation options in Malden (Re: File Nos. 307-23 and 308-23)  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 10:59:11 AM

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Dear City Clerk Carol Ann,

My name is Brooke Ashleigh, and I reside in Malden (Ward 1) at 59 Acorn St. I am writing to express my strong opposition to File #s 307-23 and 308-23 on the agenda of the Malden City Council meeting scheduled for today, September 5, 2023.

I urge the City Council to carefully consider the broader implications of these proposed ballot questions. First and foremost, we must prioritize the safety of our vulnerable road users. As a tax-paying resident of Malden who does not own a private vehicle, I make over 85% of my trips via bicycle and depend on the existing infrastructure to navigate the city safely. Furthermore, investments in new bike and bus infrastructure will establish a secure and dependable network of transportation options for all our residents, reducing our city's dependence on private vehicles and consequently alleviating traffic congestion.

There are several important questions that the City Council should contemplate regarding these proposed ballot questions:

1. What data has been presented that demonstrates the positive impact of removing existing bike and bus infrastructure from our roadways on all road users?
2. Are there documented instances where particular bike lane designs have been associated with challenges or conflicts?
3. What would be the financial consequences of removing existing infrastructure or forfeiting access to grant funding from Complete Streets Policy initiatives for future roadway projects?

I kindly request that the City Council reconsider these orders and their potential impact on our city's transportation infrastructure. Instead of eliminating important safety measures and sustainable transportation options, I encourage the City Council to engage in a more comprehensive and inclusive dialogue with residents to address concerns and find balanced solutions that benefit everyone. We must continue to invest in Malden's future by giving paramount importance to the safety of all road users, promoting fiscal responsibility, and embracing the necessary changes to maintain Malden's status as a vibrant and forward-thinking city.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Brooke Ashleigh

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