

From: [Jacob Greene](#)
To: [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)
Subject: 9.5.23 City Council Meeting -- Opposition to 307-23 and 308.23 Bus/Bike Lane Ban
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 3:26:26 PM

Greetings,

I oppose the orders (307-23 and 308.23) which call for ballot measures asking residents for a ban on bike/bus lanes.

There are entire books written on this subject. Municipalities that prioritize personal automobile volume in their downtown/business districts are facing insolvency across the US and Canada. A street that prioritizes a high volume of personal automobiles is a street that is bad for pedestrians and local residents. A street that prioritizes personal automobiles is dangerous, expensive, polluting, and stressful. The folks that want to ban bike and bus lanes are the folks that want to travel *through* Malden rather than enjoy spending time and money *in* Malden. Our town is not and should not be a highway, and that is especially true for our growing central business district with great access to the Malden Center T station.

It is an error to think that traffic will be "solved" by banning bike and bus lanes. Let us be clear: we need *more* bike and bus lanes. Not less. And the bike lanes should be physically protected with curbs/barriers.

Finally, a bit more abstractly, let us acknowledge the broad principle that diversity is strength. That applies to ethnic and cultural diversity like we have in Malden, it applies to financial portfolios, it applies to ecology and all living organisms on Earth, and it also applies here for our transportation options. Prioritizing personal automobiles and sacrificing all other forms of transportation is a mistake that has been perpetuated across the US for nearly 100 years. Malden is better than that. Banning diversity in any form (in this case, a ban on alternative transportation options for Malden residents) is regressive and repulsive.

Councilor Sica, please retract your orders. If you genuinely care about improving local traffic conditions, please express your support for a viable solution: more bike and bus lanes.

Regards,
Jacob Greene
30 Albion St, Malden

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