

Cosgrove, Marybeth

From: Davison, Jen <jen_davison@harvard.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2016 10:14 AM
To: City Council
Cc: Lopez, Donna; info@cambridgebikesafety.org
Subject: City of Cambridge Bike Safety Concerns

Dear City Council Members,

I write with my distress at the level of danger I see bike riders like my husband forced to negotiate on our local Cambridge streets. My own commute takes me through Porter Square each morning, and I am still reeling from the trauma of the accident scene I witnessed that caused the tragic death of Dr. Bernard "Joe" Lavins. It could have been my husband, and I spent some fear-gripped minutes wondering if it was before I reached him on the phone. Frankly, it could have been many people's husband or son, mother or friend, colleague—it is something that impacts all of us in our community. We simply cannot, as a city, tolerate even one of these tragic deaths. People of all ages and abilities should be able to ride their bike safely to work, school, or for recreation. Kids walking to school and commuters on their way to work should not have to fear that they will see a fellow commuter's body covered by a sheet on their way to their destination. We must take strong, immediate measures to ensure that citizens who travel our streets are safe.

In light of the tragic deaths of Dr. Bernard "Joe" Lavins, Amanda Phillips, and Marcia Deihl, all killed by trucks in Cambridge in the last two years, I call on the City of Cambridge to immediately follow through on its commitment to enact safety improvements to bicycle infrastructure across the city, starting with separated bike lanes on all major city thoroughfares. Specifically, I urge the city of Cambridge to take the following immediate actions:

1. The city of Cambridge must take immediate action to implement a network of protected, separated bike lanes on city streets by next spring, with temporary protection and pilot projects going up by the end of 2016.
2. The city of Cambridge must commit to fully implementing its Bike Plan on an accelerated schedule, revisiting those road projects underway in which the design is contrary to the Bike Plan's vision. In particular Huron Avenue, Garden Street and Pearl Street should be reconsidered.
3. The City has to make Vision Zero improvements to Porter Square, and implement additional improvements to Inman Square, within the next month.

Anything less is irresponsible and the people living in our city deserve better.

Respectfully yours,
Jen Davison

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