

## Cosgrove, Marybeth

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**From:** Rosha Forman <rosha.forman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2016 1:34 PM  
**To:** City Council; Lopez, Donna  
**Subject:** Support of a Bike Lane on Pearl Street

Cambridge City Councilors,

As a resident living on Pearl Street, I am heartened to hear that the city will continue to consider creating a designated bus/bike lane. I know firsthand that finding parking in our neighborhood -- on Pearl and off towards Brookline and Magazine on the side streets -- can be difficult. We do not have off-street parking. In the winter especially, we are sometimes forced to circle and get less picky in our spot selection. I understand that a dedicated lane would limit our options and make the parking scene more competitive, likely adding some stress to our lives.

However, as the proud parent of a 5 year-old biker, I will gladly accept that potential increase in stress and the decrease in the total number of available spots in our neighborhood in exchange for the protections that my son will enjoy if Pearl Street has a bike-bus lane. Every morning, my son and I bicycle down Pearl and I am faced with tricky decision after tricky decision. Should he stay on the sidewalks, dodging obstacles and pedestrians, hoping drivers pulling out onto Pearl are aware and can see him? Or should he bike on the street with me, between my bike (with our daughter on the back) and the parked cars, with our family taking up more road than we should and the threat of opening car doors for my son a real concern. Some mornings, we opt for the sidewalk. Some mornings, we opt for the street. Sometimes he starts on the street, but is forced up onto the sidewalks. Or vice versa. We should not have to make these decisions. A bike-bus lane would serve to protect our whole family.

While Pearl Street may not be as heavily trafficked by bicyclists as other streets in Cambridge, we have our fair share. And if the City is serious about wanting more people to bike, particularly families, then we should create facilities to enhanced safety. Pearl street is an artery between Central Square and the BU bridge/Mem drive, therefore a popular commuter route. This should not be about prioritizing one street over another. I am sure there are streets in the City without protected bike lanes that would also benefit. But a bike-bus lane on Pearl Street represents an opportunity for Cambridge to make a decision that is aligned with its oft-espoused mode-shift goals.

We will undoubtedly spend more time circling and looking for parking. But I also know the parking is there and we will find a space, even if it's not right in front of our house and requires us to walk a block or two. My family would happily trade that for this bike-bus lane and I sincerely hope the City Council can come together to support the creation of better bike infrastructure, back these efforts, and push for this change.

Rosha Forman  
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