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Cc: Eals Coalition <ealscoalition@gmail.com>, Phil Goff <philipgoff@hotmail.com>
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 18:32:50 -0400
Subject: Safety concerns at Mass Ave and Appleton

Members of the Select Board, Administrator Krepelka, Manager Chapdelaine, Select Board candidates Healy and Diggins:

My name is Scott Mullen and I reside on Henderson St in East Arlington. I write to you today in full support of swift action at the dangerous intersection of Mass Ave, Appleton St, and Appleton Pl (the 'Appleton intersection'). For many years, I worked out of an office at 1173 Mass Ave just down the street and frequently passed through the intersection by car, bicycle and also on foot.

I can say without hesitation that my personal experiences and observations of others there have frequently been harrowing. Often it's a car that doesn't slow for pedestrians in the crosswalk, many of them young students of the adjacent Ottoson School. Also common is a left turning vehicle crossing in front of oncoming traffic like the one that tragically killed Charlie Proctor earlier this month. Something must be done to mitigate the dangers there, and quickly.

Due to the complex nature of the Appleton intersection, I recognize there is no easy fix, and that the ultimate solution may be a couple of years away. In that light, I ask the Select Board to please work with other Town officials to implement a two-phased plan outlined by local planner, Phil Goff:

- SHORT TERM - with new roadway striping, modest restrictions on parking, and signs, the bike lane that currently ends at the Dunkin Donuts just west of Appleton should be extended to at least Burton St or, ideally, to connect to the existing bike lanes east of Brattle Square. Inexpensive flex posts could also be installed on the double yellow line to force left-turning motorists to use a tighter radius and more slowly (*See attached concept plan*)
- LONG TERM - building off of the 2012 CTPS report (*attached*), a new traffic study and design plan must begin very soon. With appropriate public involvement, this could be a year-long process. Finding funding, final bid documents and construction could easily take a couple more years as well. Based on that, it is imperative that the Town initiate the short term plan this summer.

Given there is a traffic signal there already, perhaps there is an opportunity to change from a 'blinking yellow/beg button' configuration to a formal red/yellow/green config? Again, the goal in my mind is to make as many immediate interventions as possible to ensure safety while a longer term strategy is outlined and implemented.

Thank you for taking a clear eyed look at this intersection and proceeding as quickly as possible to mitigate the obvious dangers there.

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