

May 31, 2020

Re: Mass Ave. Appleton St. intersection safety measures

Dear Arlington Select Board member,

I am writing in support of immediate and long-term efforts to increase safety at the Mass Ave. Appleton intersection where cyclist Charlie Proctor tragically lost his life one month ago.

I am an 18 year Arlington Heights to Cambridge bicycle commuter. I have ridden through that intersection more than 3000 times and have had close calls involving cars turning left from Mass Ave onto Appleton and from cars coming down Appleton who don't come to a full stop. Cyclists are riding far to the right so the sight lines for seeing cyclists coming down the hill are terrible for motorists on all approaches to the intersection.

I fully support:

1. Immediately instituting the recommended short-term solutions proposed by Mr. Phil Goff that include extending and painting bike lanes on both East and Westbound Mass. Ave. and relocating/removing some Eastbound on-street parking.
2. Immediately approve new traffic studies and design plans for permanent intersection changes- As we've witnessed with the E. Arlington project this process can be lengthy so must be started now.
3. Dedicating a Memorial to Charlie Proctor on or near the site of the crash.

Other modifications I would support in the near future:

1. Place traffic calming measures for Westbound drivers turning left so turn becomes more of a right angle and less of a runway.
2. Make Appleton Pl. one way- downhill traffic only and no left turn onto Mass Ave.
3. Move the bus stop beyond the intersection, i.e. more East
4. Trim trees West of the current bus stop. These trees shade the bike lane and make it difficult for Westbound drivers to see cyclists on a sunny day.
5. Include wording on Eastbound bike lane approaching Appleton- SLOW or something to that effect

I implore the Select Board to act swiftly to institute immediate safety measures to prevent further cyclist or pedestrian incidents at this intersection.

Thanks for your attention to this important issue,

Linda Epstein