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Cc: East Arlington Livable Streets <ealscoalition@gmail.com>  
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 17:59:32 -0400  
Subject: Request Safety Improvements to Mass Ave/Appleton/Howard St Intersection

Dear Arlington Select Board,

As you all know, there was a recent bicycle fatality at the intersection of Mass Ave/Appleton St/Appleton Place in Arlington Heights. Due to the intersection geometry, grades and poor sight lines this intersection is a safety challenge for all users, pedestrians, drivers and cyclists and I fear that if nothing is done more accidents will come. I myself bike through this intersection on my daily commute and extreme caution is necessary.

What is really disappointing is that the regional transportation planning agency (CTPS) studied safety issues at the intersection in 2012 but few of the recommendations were implemented due to cost issues and engineering challenges. 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. But something must be done now, in the short term to at least improve safety at the intersection to some degree, such as:

- 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, such as in the attached photos.
- LONG TERM - building off of the 2012 CTPS report, 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, please, please initiate the short term plan this summer.

Thanks for your consideration,  
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