

From: Misha Sidorsky <misha.sidorsky@gmail.com>  
To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us  
Cc: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com  
Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 15:37:58 -0400  
Subject: Re: Select Board Meeting Agenda 6/1/2020, Safer Biking

May 31, 2020

From: Misha Sidorsky  
50 Langdon St,  
Cambridge, MA 02138

To the Members of the Arlington Select Board,

My name is Misha Sidorsky. I'm a 34 year-old resident of Cambridge, and have been living in the Cambridge / Somerville area for eleven years.

I'm writing to you in memory of my good friend, Charlie Proctor, who was killed earlier this month while riding his bike on Mass Ave. in Arlington. This message is also in support of Charlie's partner, Alison Piasecki, who was riding with Charlie that day and painfully witnessed his passing.

**We are requesting that the topic of Charlie's death -- specifically the stretch of roadway on Mass Ave. where the accident occurred -- be included in your agenda for tomorrow's select board meeting (June 1, 2020).** We're asking that the stretch of Mass Ave without full bike lanes, and at least 5 intersections configured similarly to Appleton and Mass Ave, be modified to improve visibility and safety.

I am an active cyclist and commute by bike from Cambridge to work in Boston, and also regularly enjoy riding my bike through Arlington and Belmont. Since Charlie's death, I have learned there were already [studies](#) dating back nearly 10 years that have highlighted the dangers on this particular stretch of road. I'm not intimately familiar with all the road/bikeway design considerations, but improvements to this intersection (and others similar) feels especially urgent and high priority. The problem is known, well understood and solvable.

Though I am admittedly not one of the most active or outspoken local constituents in Middlesex County (in fact, this may be the first documented request I've written to any members of a Select Board in Massachusetts), I am writing today because I remain heartbroken by Charlie's tragic passing, and have become deeply concerned as I've learned more about the nature of his accident.

Among friends, Charlie was seen as a consummate practitioner of safe outdoor activities. I've trusted him with my life when we recreated in the mountains, and we shared many, many conversations about how to effectively manage our risk while cycling, climbing, and skiing together. Charlie was attentive, careful, and always followed safety principles by the book. I'm confused and shaken by his death.

In a time when safe, sustainable, and accessible biking seems most needed in our local area -- both for environmental and public health reasons -- I currently feel highly anxious and concerned by the thought of myself or friends riding through Arlington. I also fear for other riders who I imagine are less aware of the risks.

I very much appreciate you taking the time to consider this much needed infrastructure improvement.

You can learn a bit more about Charlie [here](#).

Sincerely,  
Misha Sidorsky

50 Langon St.,  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
m: 413.475.4616