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Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 20:27:16 -0400
Subject: Bike Safety on Mass, especially at Mass Ave and Appleton

Dear Select Board,

As a bike commuter to work and for errands around town I often take Mass Ave from my home near Shop and Stop up and down Mass Ave as it's the flattest, most direct route from my house to businesses I frequent. When I want to go to businesses in the heights (Trader Joe's, Walgreens, D'Agostino's, Classic Cafe, Home Taste...) I ride fairly often past the intersection at Mass Ave and Appleton and find it challenging to negotiate as cars are usually traveling above the speed limit there and cars coming from the cross street have to advance far past their stop signs to see oncoming traffic. It's a location that carries more risk than most other parts of Mass Ave. Unfortunately it's not a surprise to hear of the recent bike fatality that occurred at this intersection, as the current design increases risk for everyone, particularly for cyclists and pedestrians without the protection of a car.

I agree with EALS' holistic view of making travel options work for all modes in town, and would ask that their suggested two phase plan to improve safety at this intersection begin to be implemented as soon as possible.

- 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.
- 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, it is imperative that the Town initiate the short term plan this summer.

Sincerely,
Mustafa Varoglu
26 Shawnee Rd, Arlington