

Dear Members of the Arlington Select Board,

On Tuesday, May 5th, our son, brother, and partner Charlie Proctor was killed while riding his bicycle by a car making a left turn at the intersection of Appleton Street and Massachusetts Avenue. Charlie was a wonderful person whose absence has left an enormous hole in our hearts, and we want to prevent this kind of tragedy from happening to any more families. We have spoken to the Arlington Bicycle Activist Committee, and have been working with Galen Mook at MassBike, and have been impressed by the actions they have suggested.

We are hoping to install a “ghost bike” in Charlie’s memory at the intersection where he died. As we cannot currently gather to have in-person memorials, the physical memorials we can construct are especially important. We hope the town can provide permits for and guidance with the installation of this memorial as soon as possible, as has been suggested by the ABAC.

We also support the improvements to the Appleton Street intersection and the surrounding dangerous intersections suggested by the ABAC. The installation of full bike lanes with green intersection crossing markings on Mass Ave from Richardson Ave to Menotomy Rd would improve the visibility of cyclists on Mass Ave. Further study of more substantial improvements to obtuse angled intersections along Mass Ave, such as protected turn light cycles and geometry changes, will identify acceptable changes that will dramatically improve the safety of these intersections. With these changes, we believe that a solution can be found that can prevent further deaths at these intersections.

Thank you,

Judy Proctor, Charlie’s mother

Ched Proctor, Charlie’s father

Thomas Proctor, Charlie’s brother

Alison Piasecki, Charlie’s partner

Sandra Voss, Charlie’s sister-in-law