

From: Elise Harmon-Freeman

Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 9:22 AM

To: Eugene Benson; Kin Lau; Stephen Revilak; Melisa Tintocalis; Rachel Zsembery

Subject: In Support of MBTA Communities Rezoning

Hello -

I'm writing in strong support of MBTA Communities Working Group's Alternative 1 map. As an Arlington resident and homeowner, it's very important to me that our community is welcoming, affordable, and has housing options for everyone from young professionals to families to older adults.

By allowing more multifamily housing along Mass Ave and Broadway, we would increase demand for the small businesses on these streets and expand housing options for empty nesters, first time homeowners, and young people.

I've seen signs around town that are very misleading about the level of change that this would bring. Additional housing will only be created if/when property owners choose to redevelop -- a very incremental change that probably won't be quick enough to completely fix the high home prices and crazy competition for housing in Arlington and surrounding towns. When we bought our first home three years ago, my husband and I put in 12 offers before one was finally accepted.

We're a one-car household and do our best to bike, walk, and take public transit as much as possible. In general, it's a much more pleasant way to get around. By building more housing with convenient access to public transportation, shops, libraries, and parks, we give people more opportunities to reduce their car usage.

Elise Harmon-Freeman
Precinct 7 Resident