

From: Jill Snyder

Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2023 8:52 PM

To: MBTA Communities; Claire Ricker; Eugene Benson; Kin Lau; Stephen Revilak; Rachel Zsembery

Subject: Proposed MBTA Communities Zoning Bylaw Amendment

I'm not sure if you are still taking public comments via email for the proposed MBTA Communities Zoning Bylaw Amendment or not, but I thought I'd use this opportunity to express concern about one area in particular.

I am concerned about the 0 parking space minimum and 1 parking space maximum in the proposed zoning bylaw amendment.

I currently live in a one bedroom apartment and my partner and I have two cars. We have one parking spot that comes with our apartment and we have to fight for street parking on the private road next to our building for our second car. We both have jobs that are far enough and not MBTA accessible. So we both need an automobile to get to and from work.

The parking situation is already a challenge for us. It is my understanding that in the current bylaw, only one parking spot is required per unit in all new developments. And now the proposed bylaw amendment includes a 0 minimum, 1 maximum parking space per unit. This will make it even more difficult for people like my partner and I.

This is all made even more burdensome by the fact that overnight parking isn't allowed in most of Arlington.

I'd feel better about the proposed bylaw amendment if year-round overnight parking was allowed on Arlington streets. Sort of like they do it in Somerville. I'd be happy to pay a little bit of money to the town to park my car on the street. However, while overnight street parking is being piloted in Arlington right now, there is no promise that that will come to fruition or be implemented broadly anytime soon.

I understand the argument that not everyone drives, we want to encourage bicycle riding, walking, and taking public transportation. I would do all of this, if it was feasible as a means to get to work. But it is not. My partner and I both need two cars to get to and from work.

We are already in a precarious parking situation in our current living arrangement. We would prefer to not have to constantly worry about whether a parking space will be available on the one private road next to our building. So street parking would be super helpful. I realize I'm mixing street parking and the MBTA Communities Zoning Bylaw Amendment here, but it is hard for me to separate them since they are both parking related.

If we ever have to move, want to rent a one or two bedroom apartment, and end up in a new building that was built under the proposed bylaw amendment, we wouldn't be able to move there because we will not be guaranteed parking. I'm basically asking you to consider requiring at least one parking spot per unit, but two parking spots per unit would be best for people in my situation.

So in short, I'm encouraging you to require one parking spot per one bedroom, and two parking spots per two bedroom. And/or allow year-round on-street parking. I need a place to park my car, and if I don't have a parking spot, then I cannot live in Arlington.

There are also other situations where people may be required to have parking. e.g., people with disabilities who cannot easily get around via public transportation, walking, or bicycle; families with young children.

Thank you for your time.

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