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To: Marie Krepelka <mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: Susan McCabe <susanmccabe22@mac.com>, "Karen Steiner & Scott Smith" <smithsteiner@comcast.net>
Date: Tue, 7 Nov 2017 10:10:18 -0500
Subject: Bike Path at Water Street inquiry

Hi Maria, I'm David Whitford, 30-year Arlington resident, dedicated cyclist, living at 23 Water Street (where the bike path crosses) since 1994. Am reaching out to the Selectmen on the recommendation of Scott Smith, one of several people whose advice I've sought since last summer on how best to address this matter.

I haven't felt good about the bike path intersection outside my door since the day we moved in, but lately conditions have reached a crisis point. I fear if we don't take appropriate action we may soon be asking ourselves with regret why we failed to do so.

Rising popularity of driver apps like Waze and Google Maps has greatly increased cut-through traffic in my neighborhood, the Russell Street Historic District. During the morning rush hour we're getting a steady stream of southbound traffic on Rt. 60 (Mystic Street) that turns right on Russell Street and left on Water, as seen here: <https://goo.gl/HYnYZM>.

Or worse, right on Russell, left on Prescott, right on Winslow, and into a narrow, dogleg path down a privately owned alleyway to Water Street, as seen here: <https://goo.gl/3tM4b8>

Both maps attached below.

They're all trying to avoid the light at Mass Ave. Those who choose the former route often cross the bike path at a high rate of speed after turning left on Water Street. Those who choose the latter cut sharply (and sometimes blindly) left onto Water at the path. Either way, hazards abound.

Town (or state, not sure who has jurisdiction) could solve this problem tomorrow by banning cut-through traffic on Russell Street and Winslow Street during peak commuting hours.

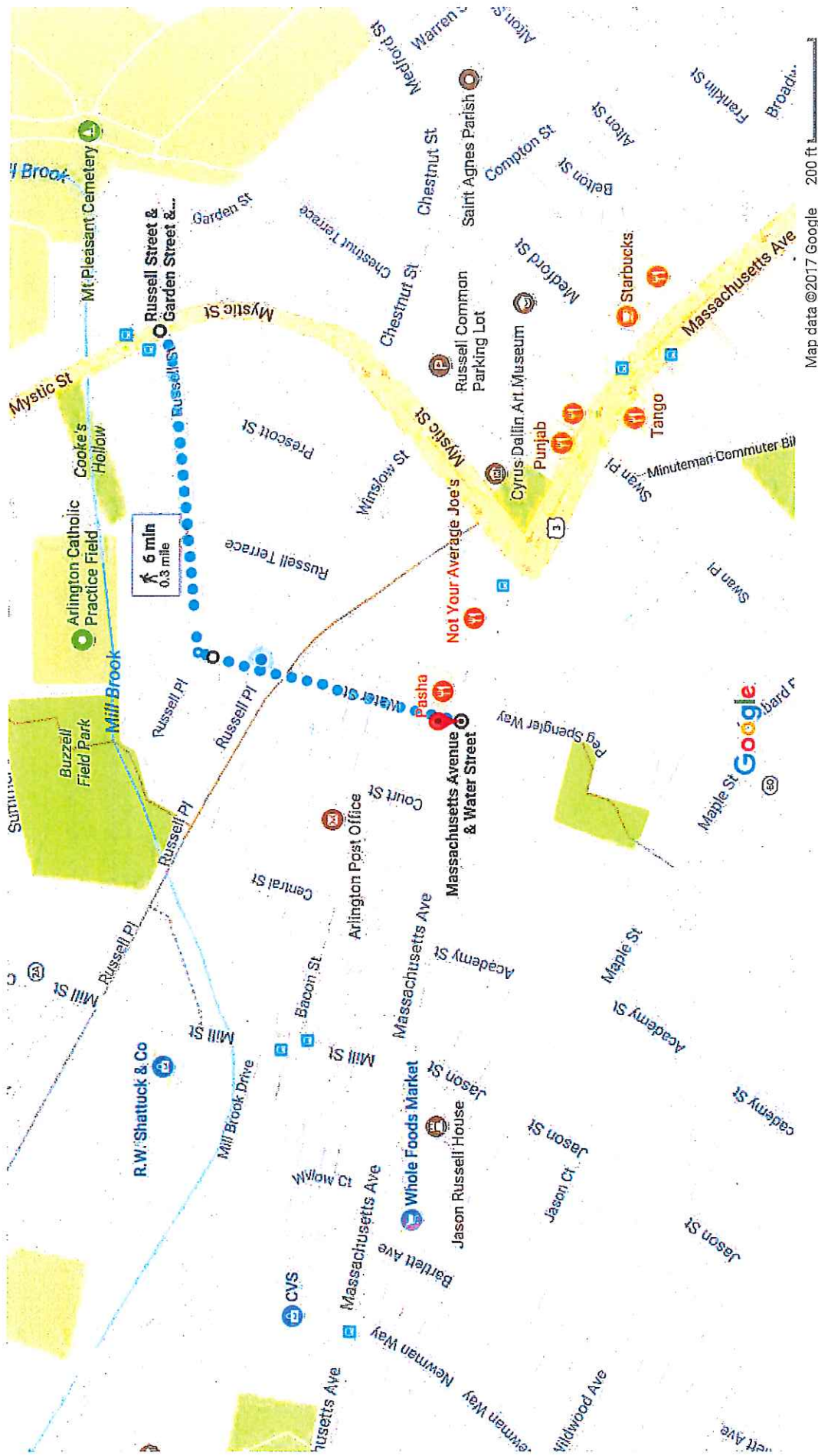
Short of that, I'd like to see high-visibility signage on Water Street alerting drivers to the bike path intersection, and clear road markings. My absolute minimum recommendation would be a "no left turn" sign where the alley intersects with Water Street.

I've been so impressed by the bike- and pedestrian-safety work the town has accomplished in recent years, including the dramatic improvements to the Mass Ave corridor in East Arlington, Arlington Center, the library pedestrian crossing, the bike path crossing at Mill Street, plus the proposed improvements at Lake Street. That leaves Water Street as the last, glaring exception. Please tell me how I can contribute to solving this problem.

Thank you,
David

Google Maps Russell St & Garden St & MA-2A to Massachusetts Ave & Water St

Walk 0.3 mile, 6 min



Russell St & Garden St & MA-2A to Massachusetts Ave & Water St

Walk 0.4 mile, 8 min

