

Dear Cambridge City Councilor,

I am a resident of Cambridge and I vote. I am writing to you to let you know how dismayed I am that the City has not addressed an issue of utmost importance to me, and one that should be of the utmost importance to you, as it concerns the safety of the citizens of Cambridge.

I am a member of the Fayerweather Street School Community. Fayerweather is a K-8 school of 183 students, located at 765 Concord Ave. On October 7th, a second grader at our school was hit by a car while crossing Concord Ave at the intersection of Spinelli Way. Had her father not been there she could have been badly injured, even killed. As it was she suffered a bruised knee and shoulder and was sent to the Emergency Room. Since the school moved to its new location at 765 Concord Ave 5 years ago, there have been many "near misses" where students and staff from the school have almost been struck by cars. The intersection of Concord and Spinelli continues to be an extremely dangerous area for anyone on foot or bike trying to cross Concord Ave.

Each day cars, heavy trucks and buses speed down the stretch of Concord Ave in front of the school. There are working people as well as FSS students and staff who use the bus stop on the Fresh Pond side of Concord Ave. and there is no safe way for them to get from the Fresh Pond side to the front of the school. In times of poor visibility due to glare, darkness or poor weather, the situation worsens. Many of the other schools in Cambridge have push button stoplights at crosswalks, as well as crossing guards or police provided by the city.

The Cambridge Mayor's Office, City Manager and Traffic Department have all been contacted about this issue on several occasions over the past 5 years. Many of the other schools in Cambridge have push button stoplights at crosswalks, as well as crossing guards or police, provided by the city. We feel that the time is way overdue for the City to address this serious safety issue now.

We are aware that there is an Alewife-Concord Planning Group studying our neighborhood. In the interim, until they make recommendations bearing on traffic and safety, we request that the city provide either a crossing light, a crossing guard or a police officer during school arrival and departure times, to insure that no further accidents will occur.

Thank you,

Laura Forbes

NAME
ADDRESS

*Laura Forbes
271-2 Walden St
Cambridge, MA 02138*

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
OCT 28 10:30 AM '98

Communication #5

4085

A communication was received from Laura Forbes, regarding the safety concerns at the intersection of Concord Avenue and Spinelli Way.

In City Council December 8, 2003

PLACED ON FILE.