



New England Medical Center

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JUN 16 1994

7A Walnut Ave.

Cambridge, MA 02140

June 14, 1994

Cambridge City Council
c/o City Clerk
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear City Councillors:

I want to commend you for considering adding bike lanes to Mass. Ave. from the Charles River to Lafayette Square. These bike lanes would be an enormous improvement in safety for cyclists like me and would put Cambridge in the forefront of enlightened approaches to transportation.

I am a dedicated cyclist, a non-car-owner who commutes by bike from Porter Square to New England Medical Center every day. Bike lanes would make an enormous difference in my commute. I especially applaud the idea of a bike lane alongside the curb rather than a row of parked cars.

Can you imagine what it's like to be cruising along on a bike and have a car door swing open in front of you? It's happened to me a few times and the results are terrifying--the cyclist goes up over the handle bars, over the car door and lands on her head on the pavement. There doesn't seem to be any way to avoid the situation without bike lanes; bikes can't safely ride far enough out in the street to avoid car doors; the car doors swing open too fast to brake; and drivers can't reasonably be expected to remember to look for cyclists every time they open the door. They usually have their heads down fumbling with the seat belt or reaching for a purse.

I understand the sacrifice involved in giving up a lane of parking for cars. However, it seems clear that the future of urban transportation does not lie with single-passenger cars. I hope you saw the recent article on different forms of transportation in the Globe: it wasn't surprising that private cars are by far the most expensive form of transportation (93 cents per mile compared to 14 cents for a bike). What was shocking was the extent to which automobile transportation is federally subsidized. Car owners often object to using public funds for mass transportation, because they don't want their tax dollars used to subsidize other people's transport. What they

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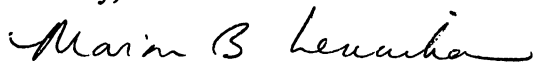
The principal teaching hospital for
Tufts University School of Medicine

don't realize is the extent to which the rest of us subsidize their transportation.

Cambridge has reached the saturation point with parking spaces anyway; a few parking spaces more or less along Mass. Ave. will not make the difference over the next few decades. What will make the difference is an enlightened approach to alternative forms of transportation. Bike lanes are a significant step in that direction.

I would take your vote in favor of bike lanes as a vote in favor of an ecologically appropriate solution to urban transportation issues. And ecology is certainly one of the issues I consider in deciding how to place my vote in the next election. I commend you for considering this proposal and strongly urge you to put it into effect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marion B Lennihan".

Marion B. Lennihan

Consent comm. # 2 *8/1 79*

Comm. from Marion B. Lennihah, 7A Walnut
Street, in support of the proposed bicycle
lane in the Mass. Ave. reconstruction
project.

In City Council,

June 27, 1994

Placed on file