

R. H. RUSSELL

June 6, 1994 23 11:05

CAMBRIDGE MA.

Ross B. Dindio,
Chief Engineer
Massachusetts Highway Department
Ten Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

RE: Bicycle Lanes on Mass. Ave. in Cambridge

Dear Mr. Dindio:

I am writing this brief letter to voice my strong support for the state Highway Department's plans to construct and delineate bicycle lanes along Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge, from Main Street to the Charles River. As a Cambridge resident who cycles to work nearly every day (35 days since April 1 of this year, so far), I appreciate both the benefits as well as some of the risks of city cycling.

Cycling dramatically reduces air pollution, particularly when you compare it with one of the most popular commuting options--single occupancy driving. It's also great exercise (I've already lost 10 pounds as a result of my daily 13-mile round-trip). But cycling can be dangerous, particularly on Boston's unruly streets. And many potential cycle commuters are reluctant to join the fray. That's why bike lanes are so important.

Finally, I hope you will view bicycle lanes as part of a broader strategy, one that encourages people to choose methods of transportation that are as environmentally benign as possible. Hence, while some may complain that the proposed bike lanes will eliminate parking spaces, even if true the elimination of parking is consistent with encouraging the use of mass transit alternatives that are far cleaner than the way most people drive--alone.

In closing, I urge you and the Mass. Highway Department to lend your strong support to this project. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Very truly yours,

Robert H. Russell

*My husband Allan Mann
joins me in supporting
bike lanes as proposed --
And more!*

142 GARDEN STREET CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138 [617] 491-3433

*Suzanne B. Mann
20 Hancock St. Cambridge 02139*

Elizabeth Rhett Thagard

June 9, 1994

126 Pearl Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

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

Re: Bike Lanes on Massachusetts Avenue

Dear City Council Members:

I am delighted to hear that the City of Cambridge has requested that bike lanes be included in the reconstruction of Massachusetts Avenue from Lafayette Square to Memorial Drive.

I bicycle down Mass Ave. to my downtown Boston office almost every day from March through November. My husband bikes year-round along that route to his job at Northeastern University. We have both complained for years about the difficulty of riding on Mass Ave. and have seen several bicycle accidents there. We are extremely pleased that the City of Cambridge finally plans to do something about this unsafe stretch of road.

The many bikers who use Mass Ave. every day will be grateful to you for making their commutes much more pleasant and their lives much safer by approving the bike lanes as part of the reconstruction project.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth R. Thagard

Consent Comm. # 5

H-102

Comm. from Allan and Suzanne B. Mann,
120 Hancock Street, in support of the
proposed bicycle lane in the Mass. Ave.
reconstruction project.

In City Council,

June 27, 1994

Klaus n. Fille