

City Manager Item #14

Re: appropriation request from the city manager for \$31,100 to do bike/pedestrian enforcement and the collection of relevant data.

I have been biking as primary means of transportation in Cambridge since 2008. The ability of residents to use bikes as a reliable means of transportation is limited- anyone who rides a bike in Cambridge, especially through Central Square, has likely experienced the challenges to commuting on the bike-- challenges ranging from obstructed bike lanes to aggressive motorists. Unfortunately I have not seen much assistance from Cambridge PD on facilitating this process whatsoever, despite the fact that some of the violations exhibited by motorists are subject to citation. For example, double parking or parking in a bike lane.

Primarily the challenges faced by cyclists must be addressed at the infrastructure level, but keeping the bike lane clear should be a priority that is regularly enforced by the BPD. I don't think a \$31,000 appropriation is the answer. This issue needs to get on their radar and be part of the routine responsibilities that they address when on the job.

The problem with this appropriation request, in particular, is that it's too vague on exactly what "enforcement" means and what "relevant data" means. Until these terms are clarified, I'm not sure I understand what these funds are attempting to achieve.

The appropriation will be used to enforce by ~~giving~~ ^{issuing} citations. This sounds like it will be focused on cyclists only, when as a cyclist I know that cyclists aren't causing accidents - cars are. They don't know the rules and they want cyclists off the roads. I request that the appropriation, if approved, does not target cyclists.

there's no evidence

disproportionately bc^v it is not
going to increase safety for anyone
~~but rather~~