

Creedon, Paul

From: Margaret [dejaveux@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2015 7:57 AM
To: City Council
Cc: Lopez, Donna
Subject: bike paths

Dear City Council and Ms Lopez

We keep hearing how bike-friendly Cambridge is, and how we ought to be using bikes instead of cars.... I bike pretty much everywhere (work, errands, Medford, Belmont, Watertown, Arlington, somerville, Boston, Lincoln, Lexington, around Cambridge) and am always frustrated about the condition of the roads - especially the shoulders where the bikers ride - and the lack of safe biking lanes and paths - and how hard it is to find a safe route for bikes when the bike paths don't connect, or in some cases, bike paths are marked but then just evaporate.

When the sides of the roads are crumbling and pitted it not only makes for a jaw-jarring ride, but it forces bikers to weave left and right to avoid the holes, often swerving into car lanes. And when the various bike path segments, which are indeed wonderful, don't connect, it's easier to just risk the roads.

So I am in favour of connecting the paths - the spur in back of the Whole Foods/Staples mall, some way to get over the train tracks to Alewife link, Huron Ave/Mt Auburn Street, the new gorgeous, but short, path that goes by the wetlands from Alewife but ends abruptly in Belmont about 1-2 miles later, etc. These are wonderful to have, but unless they actually go anywhere, they are only good for a brief joyride on a nice day.

I am also surprised the bike paths are not lit. Riding the MinuteMan path at dusk or later is dangerous and pretty much impossible. I have a light on my bike, but it is insufficient to see the path, pedestrians, etc. If we are to encourage biking, we ought to have conditions under which bikers can come home at night too.

Thank you,
Margaret Desjardins
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