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Donna P. Lopez, Interim City Clerk
Cambridge City Hall
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Cambridge, MA 02139
dlopez@cambridgema.gov

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Donna P. Lopez,

I am writing this letter to express my full support for the proposed changes to Cambridge's bike parking zoning. As a developer and resident interested in developing projects in Cambridge, I have discovered a very large and active community of cyclists. Through my research I have found a great number of people who do not own vehicles and use the bicycle as their primary means of transportation. In most Greater Boston neighborhoods close to half of the households have zero-vehicles. I believe the entire community will benefit from this proposal. By making bicycle parking more available and convenient for current cyclists, Cambridge will likely attract new cyclists, effectively reducing the vehicular traffic.

There is a clear shortage of bike parking. In the past decade, bicycling in Cambridge has more than doubled. Unfortunately, bicycle parking requirements have not changed since 1981. The city's bicycle parking requirements are not in step with current needs. Bike parking should no longer be tied to a percentage of motor vehicle parking. It is important that bike parking requirements respond directly to the square footage and intensity of use of buildings. It is also important that all new and converted developments greater than two units as well as all additions to buildings greater than three units require bike parking. 12.6% of Cambridge residents live in triple-decker houses. It is crucial that these people receive bike parking to reduce the current shortage. Finally, as bike parking increases, car parking requirements should decrease. It is very important that the city recognize that the biking community is replacing a portion of the car community, reducing traffic and the need for car parking.

People's travel choices are changing. In order for our city to thrive and attract a diverse group of people, it must take every measure to provide a wide range of suitable transportation options to all of its residents. I enthusiastically support the proposed changes to Cambridge's bike parking zoning as a measure that will express the city's awareness of the needs of its biking community and its willingness to address the demands of our time.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Mariscal
Sebastian Mariscal Studio
Principal