

Creedon, Paul

From: Lopez, Donna
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 9:05 AM
To: Creedon, Paul
Subject: FW: Policy order #2 (bike path to Watertown)

From: Jan Devereux [<mailto:jan.devereux@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 01, 2015 12:08 PM
To: City Council; Lopez, Donna
Cc: Mazen, Nadeem; Kelley, Craig; McGovern, Marc
Subject: Policy order #2 (bike path to Watertown)

Dear Councillors,

I write in strong support of making it a funding priority to construct the bike path along the former rail line between Concord Ave at Fresh Pond to connect to the Watertown Greenway (policy order #2 on the 1/5/15 agenda).

This path, which is shown as a priority on the CDD's recently released draft bike master plan, could help alleviate some of the traffic congestion through Alewife and West Cambridge by connecting the Minuteman Trail and the Watertown Greenway for bike commuters. The city purchased the rail easement in 2013 for this very reason, so I hope that every effort is being made to secure funding to construct the path as soon as possible.

The order also inquires about the possibility of purchasing the short section of the rail line that runs behind New Street. Please note that DPW is holding a public meeting on 1/15 at 6 pm at Tobin to discuss designs for the future reconstruction of New Street. Given the uncertainty that this section of the former railway will ever be acquired and converted to a bike path, the Fresh Pond Residents Alliance has asked that New Street's reconstruction include cycle facilities as well as sidewalks. With the recent permitting of 93 units at 75 New Street, we feel it is essential to provide a safe bike route between Fresh Pond and Danehy Park now, and not wait years for a path along the former rail line.

I look forward to working with the Council and city staff to identify ways to improve bike facilities throughout Cambridge in the coming year.
Happy New Year to all.

Jan Devereux
255 Lakeview Ave.