

## Lopez, Donna

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**From:** Jeff Byrnes [thejeffbyrnes@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 10:16 AM  
**To:** City Council; Lopez, Donna  
**Subject:** Comment in support of Pearl St. Complete Streets Plan

Dear City Council:

I am writing regarding Cambridge's Pearl Street reconstruction project. In the beginning, there were two options for Pearl Street: status-quo versus a protected bicycle lane that would require removal of parking on one side. After a year of public process hearing many sides of the issue, City Staff proposed a compromise option that would provide for a buffered bike lane during the day and residential parking at night.

Though I am in full support of the full-time protected bike lane option, the compromise option does seem to be a reasonable alternative that gives each side something, but not everything. Please do not support the Council Order that negates a year of public process and forces a one-sided solution.

Please vote NO on Toomey and Benzan's Order which would remove a design alternative outside of the public process. This is just not right approach to this issue, no matter how contentious. The final design does not need to be determined today, and city staff are committed to continuing the community process to determine a final design.

The trends are clear: Cambridge residents are relying less on private automobiles and more on public transportation, biking, and walking. The number of cars registered in Cambridgeport has dropped by 10% since 2000 even as population has increased. This project must invest in a future that improves the quality of life in our city by making more transportation options available to more people.

I live on Lawrence St., and Pearl St. is my primary thoroughfare to come and go from my home. During the warmer months, I bike down it every weekday on my way home, and there are plenty of times where I feel unsafe as a car is passing, or attempting to pass, me. When I'm not biking, I still walk down Pearl St. every day to get to work, and I can see plenty of parking availability on side streets.

Additionally, I'm a semi-regular rider on the 47 bus, which has its entire Cambridge portion of its route on Pearl St, and would benefit from this plan as well.

My apologies for not being able to attend tonight's Council meeting in person. Please enter this comment into the record.

Sincerely,

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