

## Lopez, Donna

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**From:** Stever Robbins [Stever@SteverRobbins.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 29, 2015 4:43 PM  
**To:** City Council; Lopez, Donna  
**Subject:** Please vote NO on Toomey and Benzan's Order

Dear City Council:

We are writing regarding Cambridge's Pearl Street reconstruction project. In short, please vote NO on Toomey and Benzan's Order which would remove a design alternative outside of the public process.

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.

Toomey and Benzan's Order 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.

We lived right next to Pearl Street for several years, and can attest that the neighborhood would substantially benefit from more options. Again, our interest is in keeping the full slate of options open at this point in the process.

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

Sincerely,

Stephen Robbins & Jeffrey Quinlan  
16 Allen Street  
Cambridge, MA 02140