

Creedon, Paul

From: Arthur Strang [arthurstrang@msn.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 03, 2015 4:31 PM
To: Maher, David; Benzan, Dennis; Carlone, Dennis; Cheung, Leland; Kelley, Craig; Mazen, Nadeem; McGovern, Marc; dsimmons@cambridge.gov
Cc: Lopez, Donna
Subject: Bike path to Watertown (pls support Council policy order on 1/5)

Please move this bike path forward.

Further, please make 25 MPH the speed limit on residential streets in Cambridge. Paris did this many years ago, and New York City only last year.

Consider a weekly, even daily, tally of stops for speeding, mapped by intersection. We should have management measures transparent for all of us.

Arthur Strang
 Fresh Pond Parkway

Begin forwarded message:

From: Alison Field-Juma <fieldjuma@gmail.com>
Date: January 3, 2015 at 4:12:14 PM EST
To: Jan Devereux <jan.devereux@gmail.com>
Cc: FPRA Google Group <fresh-pond-residents-alliance@googlegroups.com>
Subject: Re: [FreshPond RA] Bike path to Watertown (pls support Council policy order on 1/5)
Reply-To: fieldjuma@gmail.com

Here are my 2 cents--I hope other people write in or testify as well. Thanks for alerting us to it!

Dear Cambridge City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Policy Order Resolution regarding completion of the Watertown-Cambridge Greenway.

I live on Concord Avenue in Cambridge near Fresh Pond and am keenly aware of the need to complete the bike path linkages in this part of the city. It is one very important piece of the puzzle to enable people to safely and efficiently move across the hub-and-spokes transit system and avoid the burdensome and polluting traffic on Route 16--and avoid contributing to it. The transportation and traffic problems in the Fresh Pond are legion and many are difficult to solve. This action, however, is a straightforward contribution that will improve transportation. In addition, there are dangers to bicycling and walking along the section of roadway to get from Fresh Pond to Watertown, particularly navigating the Fresh Pond Parkway and Huron Avenue intersection and busy Mount Auburn Street/Rte. 16.

It would be a great shame if, after having invested in the purchase of the railroad right-of-way, more time were to pass without it being in use as a bicycle/multi-use path. I fully support taking the steps needed to open the path to use *now* rather than waiting for State funding which is uncertain and many years off at best. Completing the Watertown-Cambridge Greenway seems like a suitable infrastructure project for the City itself to pay for.

I further support the City taking the necessary action to add to the Greenway the last link in the Watertown Branch rail line that runs parallel to New Street up to the Fitchburg Line corridor. This would provide safe and useful alternate access to the Danehy Park entrance on New Street and Fresh Pond Cinema and shopping center. It would also provide a safe connection through another hazardous and crowded intersection at the Sozio rotary where Concord Avenue and New Street meet Route 16. As we know through recent discussions about the redevelopment of New Street, the demands on that road--never designed for the level of traffic that it will be experiencing nor having an adequate right-of-way width--will not easily accommodate bicycles the way a family-friendly shared-use path would.

Thank you for taking up this important matter.

On Thu, Jan 1, 2015 at 11:00 AM, Jan Devereux <jan.devereux@gmail.com> wrote:

On the City Council's agenda for [Monday 1/5 is a policy order asking for an update on funding for the construction of the bike path along the former rail line from Concord Ave to connect to the Watertown Greenway.](#)

The path would run alongside Fresh Pond, under Huron Ave by Aberdeen St, by the Star Market and over to the Arsenal Mall to connect with the recently completed Watertown Greenway to Waltham. The city purchased this portion of the rail line in 2013 and the path part of in the new bike master plan. Councillors Mazen, McGovern and Kelley are asking the manager to consider a temporary paving plan to accelerate putting this right of way to use by cyclists and pedestrians.

Please send comments to the Councillors (council@cambridgema.gov) and the clerk (dlopez@cambridgema.gov) or call to sign up for the public comment portion of the hearing ([617-349-4280](tel:617-349-4280)). Meeting starts at 5:30 and will be held at CRLS in the school committee meeting room off Broadway.

This policy order also asks for an update on the possibility of purchasing the spur of the rail line that runs behind New St. (Reminder: DPW will discuss the design for the reconstruction of New St with residents on Th 1/15 at 6 pm at Tobin. Please save the date.)

Jan Devereux

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