

December 7, 2015

Cambridge Planning Board  
City of Cambridge Community Development Department  
344 Broadway  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Cambridge Planning Board:

We would like to offer public comment on the zoning changes you are considering around parking spaces for carsharing vehicles in existing and new parking lots.

LivableStreets is a Cambridge-based group rethinking urban transportation in the metro region. We support more transportation options for people to get around the region safely, conveniently, and affordably without relying on a personally owned car for every trip. Carshare is one option that has a host of benefits for the environment, public health, and people's wallets.

There are many benefits to carsharing. It reduces car ownership and miles driven as people better learn how to take advantage of biking, walking and public transit options – one carshare car takes 9 to 13 private cars off the street, increasing the number of available parking spots. All of this helps to decrease city congestion, fuel use and CO2 emissions.

While the benefits of carsharing, and its utility in a city like Cambridge, are no longer in dispute, some residents continue to have concerns that allowing spaces for shared vehicles in residential neighborhoods could cause parking shortages by displacing other vehicles. However, we believe that the recommendation of the Planning Board, that 75% of required spaces in residential lots be reserved for personally-owned vehicles, would limit the expansion of carsharing too much in areas conveniently close to people's homes – exactly where they are most likely to need access to a car.

It has been well-documented that accessible carshare dramatically reduces the number of cars in a neighborhood. Limiting the space available for shared vehicles is more likely to exacerbate than solve the issue of parking scarcity. We agree with the logic of the Community Development Department that such strict regulation is unnecessary since fewer shared vehicles are necessary to provide the same level of service as private ones, and carshare operators are unlikely to rent more parking spaces than needed.

Some have also made the argument that new carshare spaces should require abutter approval; we believe that this too will only limit access to a valuable service in areas it is most needed. The idea that carshare will increase congestion or parking demand has been disproved, and the concern that allowing shared spaces in residential parking facilities will somehow sully neighborhoods with disruptive commercial activity is equally unfounded. Carshare users are our neighbors, not strangers who come from far away just to disrupt the neighborhood late at night.

Lastly, there is already strong public support for increasing carshare access in Cambridge. In 2014, we asked Cambridge residents, via electronic survey and on the streets, for their views on carshare. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with 196 people signing that they want more carshare in their neighborhoods and many offering stories about why they support carshare. We are sharing these with you again to demonstrate the strong public support for more carshare in Cambridge. Please find attached the responses.

**20 YEARS**  
**LivableStreets** Rethinking urban transportation

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Thank you,

Charlie Denison, Advocacy Committee Chair, LivableStreets Alliance

Rob O'Connor, Advocacy Committee member and Cambridge resident

## "I want more carshare in Cambridge because..."

1

First	Last	Zip	Response
Alex	Epstein	02142	I want access to more convenient zipcars and to reduce the number of cars clogging our streets! Every shared car takes 10-20 private cars off the road.
Rohan	Gregoryg	02138	It's good
Kara	Mazzotta	02143	We want fewer personal cars on the road
John	Carper	02139	Cambridge needs to be more of a walking and biking city.
Goram	Palmer		I do'nt own a car
Reina	Charles		cleaner air
James	Kelly	02143	It would be useful on weekends
Clark	Barstram		the environment is important
Kate	Benson		carsharing reduces cars on the road
Luca	Bonfiglio		sustainability
Oliver	Sellers-Learik	02145	it cuts down on S,O.U (?) car use
Ken	Carlsen		
Matt	Barackma	02138	CO2 sucks
Felicity	Lufkah	02139	it's useful
Roberta	Resedes		
Carl	Ehir		Less CO2!
Lee	Stanford		i don't own a car ad walk 6 + miles a day
Lonie	Reilly	02143	it's good for the evironment and the community
Michael	Cappabianca		less cars, more room for people and bikes
Kam	Cunningham	02143	
Matt	Mewell	02143	I don't own a car!
Jess	Rosser		
David	Hegorty	01890	
Amy	Stein		it's more sustainable
Suhasa	BK		Biking is fun, healthy, ad good for the environment
Tayla	Dayton		
Linda	Chauley	02138	
Rebecca			We have too many cars on the road!
Bellhen	Olta	02155	Reduce Cars on street
Jesse	Lundberg		
Robin	Bergstrom	02139	it reduces car ownership and automobile dependency
Josh	Ain	02143	they are convenient
Karen	Engels	02138	I have 3 children and would love safer streets for them to bike and walk
Michele	Hewitt	02143	We want to reduce the number of cars clogging the streets not being used ad taking up parking spots

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2

First	Last	Zip	Response
C	Mitrano		I would feel safer riding my bike if the bike paths were available on more streets
Garrett	Stone		many of us live close enough to walk or bike to work easily!
Andre	Wisintoka	02143	fewer cars on the road
Martin	Reuter	02139	I like car sharing
Dan	Valee		I support this idea if it can reduce traffic ad parkig needs in Cambridge
Bruce	Shave	02139	I am a biker myself & a walker
Max			It's great for folks that don't own a car
Kathy	Gardner		cars not sustainable
Linda			
Laurie	Kelldorfer		parking on the street is the worst
Jon	Riccuutis		the fewer cars on the road, the better
Ron	J		I want less cars/trucks/etc on the street so biking is safer for my family!
Elle	Katz		fewer cars on the road
Erin	Hart	02139	Less cars, more bikes
Whitney	VanPraugh	02139	car traffic is not fun.
Jeff	Sullivan		traffic is bad, reduce pollution.
AnnMarie	Okeefe	02139	
Neel	Josh		
Liz	Vaughan		its awesome!
Kerry	Denvir	02141	Few cars, less fossil fuel emissions :)
Nic	Mendoza		
Hudson	Gilmer		there are too many cars!
Josfinna	Beckdorf		
William	Holladay	02145	Its better than the alternative - get more cars off city streets.
Meryl	Brett		
Donna	Erickson	02139	we need to work on saving our planet in everything we do.
Diane	Mclaugh		Avoid traffic jams, more sustainable environment
Amy	Werner	02138	My car is too expensive and I hardly use it.
Jesse	Solomon	02139	We're zip car members.
Drane		02140	Few parking spaces.
Katherine	Hurx Thal		Good idea.
Reshef			
Matt	Hunter	02474	It will decrease traffic and increase safety.
Susan	Kaufman	02138	Cambridge will be less congested
James	Recht	02138	We need fewer cars on our streets.

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3

First	Last	Zip	Response
Jade	Guedos		Less cars on the road! More bikes. Better health.
Masha	Katsman		It is a good idea - less cars, more space.
Maritza	Soto	02138	It makes sense.
	Schuman	02138	We are a 2 parent/2 kid family with both parents working. We want to be a 1-car family for the environment (reduce emissions), so having accessible car share options allows us to do this. Need designated family cars with car seats in cars.
Trudi	Cohen		Fewer cars, more space = good!
Pricilla	Johnson		I work in Cambridge.
Jan	Devereux	02138	Traffic is terrible!
Mayun	Sun	02478	
Eli	Tucker-Raymond	02140	Fewer cars means a cleaner Earth!
Haley	Woodward	02140	I don't own a car and want to have options.
Gregory	Woodward	02140	It's good for the environment and will help me save money by not buying a car.
Jeff	Meese		It's a good idea!
Suzanne	Pearce		
Michael	Selva	02138	I use zipcar, and I would like to find more pickup spots around the city.
Amy	Munsat	02138	There is too much traffic/pollution - we have one car and use zipcar as another car, would like more zipcar/bike share options.
Jo	Solet		It brings people together and saves the air, lowers the noise.
John	Howe		It reduces congestion arnd helps everyone move around more easily.
Andrea	Simpson	02138	Less traffic - saves gas - less CO2.
Teesta	Jain	02138	It will save our environment. It is our duty to maintain it for the next generation.
Derek	Van Bever	02138	We should make it easy for everyone to leave a smaller footprint.
Dan	Blasle		Better for environment, safer for kids.
Ellen	Van Bever	02138	We should be a model city for car-share, pedestrians, bikes, etc. Less cars, healthier
Jason	Lee	02140	It's better for all.
Susan	Coolidge		Energy savings! Less congestion!
S. Matt	Read		It makes sense! I bike and prefer any solution which reduces cars on the road.
Seth	Federspiel	02474	Fewer private cars on the streets means more space for pedestrians, bikes, and people - making cities a better place to live.
Maria	Fobrikanakis	02139	We are zipcar members and think it is a great service.
Jean	Rogers	02138	We need less cars on the streets.
Joan	Sequeim		Less cars means lless pollution, safer streets, and speedier commutes.
Peggy	Barnes Lenart		Reduce congestion environment, reduce over consumption.

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4

First	Last	Zip	Response
Kavita	Surana	02138	Less cars, less emissions, cleaner Cambridge.
Stefanie	Teller	02141	We bike - walk - have a young son. We want more space for that and less space for
Andrea	Bakal	02140	Less pollution.
Laurie	Ferguson		Good to have less cars and more carshare.
An	Jong	02138	Traffic is bad enough - let's save ourselves from burning more fossil fuels than we need to and from spending too much time sitting in traffic!
Dan	DoGooger	02144	We need to have less carbon emissions and use less resources!
Luz	Valdez	02151	I will save energy and unnecessary waste.
Kiel	Iwanik	02189	
Amy	Daun	02139	
Elise			It is better for the environment.
Alliston	Bay		
Nadeem A.	Mazen	02139	City Councillor Ph(617) 349-4280
Claire	Miller	02130	I love bikes.
Nevo	Eran		I support!
Gideon	Weissman	02141	Less cars is good!
Mo	Barbosa	02139	Less cars, more bikes, more safety.
Galen	Mook	02134	No need for personal cars! We share the roads, share the bikes, why not share the cars??
Jessica	Robertson	02134	More carsharing = less parking = more land for houses and more streets for people.
Peter	Lyons	02138	To keep fewer cars on the road so we have more space to bike safely.
Kimberly	Sansoucy	02138	It reduces congestion.
Marco	Wevinan	02139	We need fewer cars on the streets and that helps get to that goal.
Davio	Borazchiau		I bike everywhere.
Francesco	Stefanelli	02143	of the pollution!
Miriam	Rubenstein	02139	It's expensive and unnecessary to own a car in Cambridge.
Jamie	Ciocco	02140	More carshare = fewer cars
Melissa	Mermin	02138	Because we need less people owning cars.
Brent	Glass	48135	Sustainable living is essential to progress in America.
Mike	O'Brien	02139	Convenience, reducing congestion, reducing pollution, safer for bicyclists with less
Paul	Neff	02138	It makes sense in every way - the fewer the cars on the road, and fighting for parking space, the better!
C.	Castellani di Carlanto	02451	We need less pollution and congestion!
Scarlet	Espinosa		We want careshare!
Marguerite	Ayewu		It is good 4 the planet.

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5

First	Last	Zip	Response
Archare	Achya		Global warming and traffic jams contribute to it!
Pamela	Worth		Because I use Zipcar and Lift when I'm not using the T, and they're all awesome!
Aiyama	Zihuatanejo		Streets will be cleaner!
Roberto J.	Martorell	02139	We will better our environment.
Shu	Wang		
Ethan	Andrews		
Gilbert	Rossetal	02148	Zipcar Monopoly!
Holland	Dieringer	02155	Less cars more bikes!
Gustavo Patriani	Sanches	02131	The streets will be way more cleaner!!
Shannon	Murphy	02467	Then I don't have to buy a car!
Antonio	Ferragud	02143	It is ecofriendly. We want a "greener" city.
J.	Advani	02139	It's good for the environment & promotes community.
Marissa	Katz	02144	Because it's environmental and community building.
Lillian	Jones	02138	
Kevin	Donovan	02472	Fewer cars makes for a much more liveable city.
Mega	Hermavan	02139	It is convenient.
Fernando A.	Melendez		Yes I would like to support a better traffic policy that will influence more people to go on bikes more. Better for the environment.
J	Gordon	11803	The environment is ...
Samuel	Bearg	02144	It's more efficient.
Dominick	Reuter	02139	Fewer cars = more happy.
Charles	Johnson	02215	I want us all to leave a smaller footprint while still achieving our dreams.
Luis	Carli	02141	It reduces the traffic, pollution.
Kyle	Pedrotty	02142	
Bob	Barnes	02142	I don't own a car so this would really be a plus.
Paul	Wallace	02142	Traffic congestion.
Joshua	Rothman	02141	It saves the environment!
Gabrielle	McCann	02142	Makes things easier!
Tesfamel	Abeke	02142	I support it because it helps people in need and a good method of limiting emissions.
Dorothy	Zinde	02141	It is convenient and makes it easier to get around.
Raj	Gupta	02142	Common parking spots.
Amanda	Natale	02155	It's useful for residents who don't have access to a car.
Weilu	Li	02478	It's convenient for people who need a car but don't have one for now, and it's
John	Palombo	02458	It provides a reasonable alternative to owning a car in a crowded city.
Willian	Rushey	02142	Traffic gets very hectic and dangerous for cyclists.

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6

First	Last	Zip	Response
Ogut	Barin	02215	I do not want to lose time in traffic and harm the environment more.
Carrie	Tate	02141	It will reduce the number of cars on the road, reduce traffic, and lower carbon emissions.
Lili	Knorr	02142	It will reduce congestion.
Andrea	Black	02142	Driving is expensive
Matt	Nelson	02141	Of our children and our children's children.
Buseh	Weeks	02142	Keep our pollution down.
Mira	Kaplan	02144	We need to all coexist.
Denorma M	Campbell	02139	It helps with less traffic jams, pollution.
Aaron	Marks	02155	More choices for sustainable transport.
Henna			I don't own a car.
Jamie	Maier	02144	I don't want to own a car, but sometimes I need to get somewhere far away
Joan	Pickett	02138	I am very concerned about more Carshare in Cambridge if the plan is to allow allocation of resident parking spaces to a for profit enterprise. Residential on street parking in some neighborhoods is a nightmare with already insufficient spaces.
Bill	Kirtley	02140	I do most of my daily travel by bike or T, and use a Zipcar or rental for longer trips. Better for my health, my wallet, my community.
Ed	Frankenberry	02138	I'm a zipcar member since I mostly bike and don't need a car fulltime n't
David	Kuss	02141	The more visible car shares are the more it will be in people's minds
Amy	Jarvis	02139	auto needs. We walk and bike more and have been able to be car free for 6 years now. Please consider our family as supportive of more similar programs for Cambridge/BOS.
Carice	Reddien	02138	Our family doesn't need to find a parking spot for an infrequently needed second car!
Eline	Bakker	02139	Carsharing = costsharing. We have been carsharing a friend's car for 1,5 years. Surprisingly, it somehow all works out: when our friend needs the car, we don't and when we need the car, he doesn't...
Elizabeth	Gombosi	02138	Although I definitely support car sharing, I do NOT support the idea of allowing them to park in private driveways in residential areas. There are plenty of places close by that are for business use.
Sam	Stern	02138	

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7

First	Last	Zip	Response
Liz	Williams	02139	...more carsharing options reduces dependency on private autos, which translates into less congestion, less pollution, and a healthier community.
Steven	Nutter	02138	Carshare services are my replacement for a private car and let me travel safely and efficiently without taking up parking spots.
Joshua	Beckmann	02141	It helps me get a car when I need it and not have one when I don't. I walk, bike, and carpool more when I don't own a car. Saving money and keeping me healthier .
Harry	Mattison	02134	My family (wife & 3 kids - 7, 9, & 11) had two cars for several years. We very rarely used both at the same time, as my wife and I both were commuting to work by bike from Allston (her to Longwood, me to Waltham). We were also outgrowing the larger one (Mazda 5) for longer trips. So we sold the little older car (Honda Civic) and joined ZipCar. We only use ZipCar once a month (at most), save a lot of \$\$, and enjoy being able to get a bigger minivan for ski trips and when we want to transport a larger group of kids. I don't think we will ever own 2 cars again.
Rachel	Fichtenbaum	02144	It is more efficient for us as a society to share cars and creates more space for people who do need their own for daily commuting or other needs
Juliana	Shulman	02139	We need to be supporting a community where people can live, work, and play without owning a personal car. Doing so will promote health, safety, and help mitigate the environmental costs of this dirty form of transportation.
Stephen	Laniel	02139	We have one of the few cities where a wide array of transit options is even possible. Let's exploit that advantage.
Janice	Zazinski	02474	Do you mean Zipcar? I am a member because I don't have a car, but I wish they were less expensive (rates just keep going up and up) and more conveniently located to my home in Arlington.
Meghan	Shaw	02139	I rely on having lots of carshare options to keep my family with our 10 month old car ownership free.
Norbert	Kopco	02141	I think it's the best option to get around when public transit is not available/convenient.