



Anna Callahan

Office that the candidate is seeking: State Representative, 34th Middlesex

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QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>Somerville contains several environmental justice communities, with several neighborhoods impacted by air and noise pollution from highways running through them. What would you do to ensure that transportation priorities, specifically bicycle infrastructure improvements, contribute to improving equity in Somerville?</p>	<p>We need to make sure that cyclists are safe no matter where they're riding, and we need to reduce traffic on highways for our vulnerable residents. I believe we can work with the city's SomerStat data to find out specifically where commutes and short trips use the highway, and build bicycle infrastructure to help reduce highway traffic in these neighborhoods. A public information campaign including "ride to work" days can also be a part of this, encouraging people to ride bicycles on new, safe bike paths.</p>
<p>While almost all streets in Somerville are maintained by the city, several of our most dangerous roads (McGrath Highway, Alewife Brook Parkway) are under state jurisdiction. If elected, what is the first thing that you would do to improve safety on those roadways for people on bicycles and other vulnerable road users?</p>	<p>Protected bike lanes are not only a proven way of reducing crash rates for cyclists, but for drivers as well. I will work with MassBike and other groups to strategize these and other improvements that are needed in order to achieve safety for all cyclists.</p>
<p>Federal and state transportation funding typically directs little budget to improving bicycle infrastructure. If elected, what would you do to ensure that a greater share of transportation spending is directed to people on bicycles and other vulnerable road users?</p>	<p>My top priority as an elected official will be to bring people into the political process. By uplifting stories about bicycle safety and the need to encourage bicycling to combat climate change, I believe we can raise awareness around this issue to get the needed funding.</p> <p>Massachusetts needs to bring in revenue from large</p>

	<p>corporations and the wealthy so we can provide more funding for transportation and bicycle safety infrastructure. To this end, I support the Fair Share Amendment, also known as the “millionaire tax,” which would generate an additional \$2 billion in revenue for the state each year. I also support a tax on corporations that pay their CEO more than 100x their average worker, raising the capital gains tax, and raising the corporate tax rate and corporate minimum tax.</p>
<p>What have you done or worked on in the past that shows your record of being involved in bicycle safety, active transportation, or safety improvements for vulnerable road users?</p>	<p>I lived car-free for 16 years here in Somerville, including when our son was a newborn. We continue to bike or take public transit for the vast majority of our trips. This issue is incredibly important to me; this is about envisioning not only safe bicycling for adults, but also parents feeling comfortable letting their children bike with them or on their own. For the last 4 years I have been training people in a specific model for ensuring participation by frontline communities in all policy areas, and I will continue to ensure participation from groups such as the Somerville Advisory Bicycle Committee and others, to listen to how policy affects you, and also to strategize how we can get bicycle safety policy passed in the State House.</p>
<p>Many crosswalks in Somerville use automatic / timed pedestrian crosswalk signals. However, most pedestrian crossing signals in state-owned intersections are not automatic. Would you support state agencies making all crosswalk signals automatic at state-owned intersections?</p>	<p>Yes</p>