



Representative Christine Barber

Incumbent, Democrat – State Representative, 34th Middlesex

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>Yes, particularly in Ward 4 (Winter Hill/Mystics/Ten Hills) in my district, which is an EJ community with both I-93 and busy state roads running through. These areas are impacted by particulate matter from the roads, and are very dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians. I secured funding in a recent state budget to improve the light and pedestrian crossing at Shore Drive near the Mystic Housing. I am excited that MassDOT has recently announced the creation of a bus (and bike) lane on Mystic Ave as well. I have strongly supported the bus/bike lane on Broadway in Winter Hill, which has helped to open up that area to cyclists. In addition, I secured funding in the state budget to build out the multimodal path along Blessing of the Bay path, as well as improvements to MacDonald Park nearby in Medford, and funding to build the Clippership Connector to encourage safer bike commuting. I will continue to stand up and support bike lanes and paths in this area.</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>I continue to meet with residents who live near and use these roadways to gather input about the best ways to make these roads safer. From that input, in a recent budget, I secured funding for a Route 16 Master Plan, to connect the state, city and residents to make needed improvements to the safety and accessibility of this road to pedestrians and cyclists. As mentioned above, I continue to work to make Mystic Ave, particularly where it connects to McGrath Highway, safer to transit, cyclists and pedestrians.</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>In a recent state transportation bond bill, my spending priorities focused on bike and pedestrian improvements to Mystic Ave/McGrath Highway and Alewife Brook Parkway. This specific language is a way to ensure that state projects focus on these road users, not cars. In addition, I have worked with MassDOT and the city of Somerville on targeting funds from the federal government to improve the area where I-93 intersects with McGrath Highway, and prioritize those funds to improve access to cyclists and pedestrians. It is a culture change, and one that I am continually advocating for in transportation spending.</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>A major priority since I was elected has been supporting public transportation and alternatives to driving. I have advocated to build the Green Line Extension, and pushed to ensure this design includes an extension of the Community Path from Lowell Street to Cambridge, and to extend the GLX to Route 16 in Medford. In addition to public transportation, I have prioritized new multimodal paths - including along the Mystic River from Whole Foods in Medford to Medford Square, I've secured funding for the Clippership Connector along the Mystic from Medford Square to Hormel Stadium, and for improved paths in MacDonald Park and Blessing of the Bay Park. I have also prioritized state transportation spending to improve the safety for pedestrians and cyclists on state roads, namely Mystic Ave and Route 16/Alewife Brook Parkway.</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>