



Erika Uyterhoeven

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QUESTION	ANSWER
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?	Studies have shown that the safer a city is for cyclists, the more likely people are to ride, especially families. I will work with the city to continue to put in safety measures, especially protected bike lanes, throughout Somerville. We also need to ensure that bikes and safety equipment are available to all those that want it. Increasing Somerville’s rental and sharing options will ensure that everyone has the option to ride.
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?	I will collaborate with the city to put pressure on state authorities for more traffic calming measures. More and better lighted signage, raised cross walks, and protected bike lanes are just some of the tools the state can use to slow down traffic in these dangerous areas. These state owned roads that cut through our city pose a health risk, in more ways than one, to our residents, and we need to take steps to mitigate that.
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?	We need to ensure that transportation is equitable for all people. Along with fully funding public transportation, I would like to see funds for more protected bike lanes throughout the state. Somerville is one of the leaders when it comes to bike safety, but often people are travelling outside of city limits to get to work or school. I would like to see bike infrastructure improved across Massachusetts. I would also work with the state authorities to push for bike rental and sharing programs available near public housing, low income areas, and public transportation hotspots.

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?	I'm a year-round biker. I have survived a terrible bike accident on Mass Ave and have many close friends who have suffered life-long injuries from collisions or who have passed away because they were hit while biking. It's what motivated me to testify publicly in favor of bikes lanes in Somerville and Cambridge, most recently for maintaining 24 hour access to the Broadway bus/bike lane. I am eager to continue to advocate for bike infrastructure at both the state and local level.
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?	Yes.