



**Senator Patricia D. Jehlen**

Incumbent, Democrat - Second Middlesex

Office that the candidate is seeking: Senator, Second Middlesex District

Website: <https://www.patjehlen.org/>

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>What would you do to ensure that transportation priorities, specifically bicycle infrastructure improvements, contribute to improving equity in Somerville and Cambridge?</p>	<p>I am happy to work with advocates and agencies to improve bicycle safety. Each project is different, so I try to understand the specifics. My husband and daughter ride their bikes regularly around Somerville, Cambridge and Boston, so I have a good daily source of information on conditions.</p>
<p>While almost all streets in Cambridge and Somerville are maintained by the cities, several of our most dangerous roads (Memorial Drive, 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've been working with Reps. Connolly and Barber on the many dangerous intersections along Rt. 16, Rt. 28, and McGrath Highway. That includes the recent transportation bond bill (below) and also site visits, meetings, etc., including an upcoming meeting about solutions for the Kensington Underpass. I supported improvements in the plans for the Longfellow Bridge so there is more bicycle safety.</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>Here's an example: in the recent transportation bond bill we were able to allocate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$2 million for the extremely dangerous intersection at Routes 28/38 where there was a recent pedestrian fatality,</li> <li>- \$2 million for Rt 16 improvements including crosswalks and crossing lights,</li> <li>- \$1 million for traffic signal improvements at the Main/South Street intersection in Medford (so dangerous as to be impossible to cross), and</li> </ul>

	<p>- \$250 thousand for accessibility at the Bailey Rd bus stop.</p> <p>I was among 3 cosponsors of a successful amendment to increase Complete Streets funding from \$20 million to \$50 million, and among 8 cosponsors of the successful electric bicycle amendment, and among 2 cosponsors of a successful amendment of \$100 million for repair and inter-modal improvements at Alewife Garage.</p>
<p>What have you done or worked on in the past that shows your record of advocating for active transportation - such as walking or biking - and/or public transportation?</p>	<p>I have worked to get the Green Line Extension approved, funded, and constructed for many many years. I have supported, and continue to support, the Fair Share Amendment which would make more funding available for transportation and education, and would certainly advocate higher shares for public transit and active transportation.</p> <p>I have actively supported the Community Path, including advocating for its extension all the way to Lechmere.</p> <p>I was a cosponsor of the Vulnerable Road Users bill, now known as the Act to Reduce Traffic Fatalities.</p> <p>I continue to support the automatic traffic enforcement bill. The example I used in debate is Alewife Brook Parkway, said by DCR to be "too dangerous to enforce."</p>
<p>Many crosswalks in Cambridge and 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>Probably, but I'd like to know more about specific intersections. I don't know that much about the issues</p>