



Kathleen Hornby

2024 State Primary Election – Somerville Bike Safety Questionnaire

1) How do you get around Somerville?

When I first moved to Somerville in 2006, I walked or relied on public transportation. I began cycling more in 2009 and became a year-round bicycle commuter in 2012. I only began driving regularly when my daughter was born, but still walked and took public transit for most of my trips around Somerville, then put her in an infant seat once she was old enough. I bought an electric Taga trike when my son was born in 2017 so that I could carry both of them. We upgraded to an Urban Arrow in 2021 and that became my primary mode of transportation with the kids (as well as for commuting downtown); otherwise, I'm on an acoustic bike, walking, or taking the bus. The only times that I drive for trips within Somerville are on occasions of truly atrocious weather (cold doesn't count!).

2) A number of people have been killed in the last few years while crossing the street on state-owned roads like McGrath Hwy and Mystic Ave. How will you work with the Mayor and City Council of Somerville to ensure that state agencies like MassDOT work to make their roads safer for all users?

Having worked with the MBTA for years as Chief of Staff for two Cambridge State Representatives, I am well-positioned to advocate for better service for Somerville residents. I will work to ensure that we keep our current bus routes and to increase their frequency and I will also push for north-south routes and crosstown routes to serve the Mystic Ave EJ community. In addition, I will make sure that the subway lines serving Somerville continue to show improvements in reliability, speed, and accessibility. To help mitigate impacts on Somerville residents, I will advocate for a fare-free bus program.

3) The MBTA has been providing substandard service for Somerville residents for a long time and especially since 2022 when the federal government mandated slower service due to safety issues. As state representative, how will you advocate for better quality of service from the MBTA for Somerville residents? What should the MBTA or other state or city agencies do to help mitigate impacts on Somerville residents while efforts to fix public transit are happening?

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4) What specific issues that advance safe streets for vulnerable users would you prioritize for state legislative action?

I would prioritize enabling municipalities to impose additional registration fees on heavy passenger cars, trucks and SUVs; installing automated enforcement cameras on both school buses and transit vehicles and as a pilot program on municipal roads; and establishing a grant program to expand access to e-bikes. I would also work to ensure complete, timely implementation of An Act to Reduce Traffic Fatalities.