

**Danielle Delaney**

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**From:** Carol Moore  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 3, 2022 11:56 AM  
**To:** Danielle Delaney; Cassidy Flynn  
**Subject:** Fwd: April 6 Committee Hearing - Commonwealth Ave. Carriageway and Traffic Light at Ash St.

For your committee members.

Carol Moore, CMC  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council

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**From:** Frederick Miller <miller@chathamgroup.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 3, 2022 11:53:00 AM  
**To:** Carol Moore <cmoore@newtonma.gov>  
**Subject:** April 6 Committee Hearing - Commonwealth Ave. Carriageway and Traffic Light at Ash St.

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Dear Ms. Moore,

Would you please distribute this email to the members of the City Council prior to the hearing this Wednesday evening, April 6, regarding the Ash St. and Commonwealth intersection. Thank you.

Dear City Councilors,

**I write to support the Alternative Option retaining the traffic light at Ash St. and Commonwealth Avenue, a topic to be considered Wednesday evening, April 6, at a joint meeting of the Public Facilities and Public Safety and Transportation Committees. I encourage this for 3 reasons:**

1. From my personal experience and observation, the safest way to exit Islington Road to drive east on Commonwealth Ave. is at the traffic light at Ash St. and Commonwealth Avenue – there is no other road access to or from the Islington Peninsula. Without a break in heavy traffic people risk small gaps between cars or “dare” drivers to slow down to make the turn. Almost every day I walk, bike, or drive in this area and ever mindful of safety, I always use the traffic light at Ash St. While some may have misunderstood our neighborhood’s concern as one of convenience, it is not; it is one of safety.
  - a. Illustration: at 5:08 p.m. on Friday, April 2, 2022, I personally witnessed eastbound traffic semi-stalled and spaced bumper-to-bumper from Lexington St. to beyond the Marriott Hotel.
  - b. Additional concern: Lyons Field ballgame drop-offs, pick-ups, and arriving and departing spectator traffic will exacerbate the situation without the Ash St. traffic signal.
  - c. Alternative possibility: route eastbound traffic coming off the Islington Peninsula onto the Carriageway to the light at Melrose.
2. Sadly, from years of experience as a bicyclist and walker I find cars too often do not slow down or stop for pedestrian initiated traffic signals (which I always seek to rely on when they are available). Thankfully, some motorists are appropriately observant, but I experience the availability of a traffic light to be far superior to

pedestrian initiated flashing signals. I see this as especially important for elderly residents of the Islington Peninsula and nearby areas who I observe crossing during the "WALK" signal.

a. Illustration: at 78 years of age, the availability of the red light and WALK/WAIT signage is very important and helpful to me.

3. I acknowledge the opportunity of state funds to address the Ash St. and Commonwealth Avenue intersection, but as both a state and local taxpayer I believe the considerations above discount the state funding opportunity as a dominant criterion for the decision when both options achieve the project purpose. Newton is appropriately prudent with its substantial taxpayer funds and with appropriate planning the needed Carriageway improvements between Islington Road and Ash Street and the curb cuts and other intersection improvements can be achieved with local funding.

a. As demonstrated in the project presentations: the proposed Alternative Option retaining the Ash St. traffic light achieves the 3 stated project goals.

**I applaud Bike Newton for their advocacy of safe bicycling and walking paths (I personally advocated with members of Congress to establish the original federal legislation and funding for bike trails) and I join with my nearly 150 Islington Peninsula neighbors who signed a petition advocating creation of the proposed bike and walking path and retention of the Ash St. traffic light.**

**In an era in which finding common ground and compromise is increasingly important, I encourage the two Committees to adopt the Alternative Option.**

Sincerely,

Frederick T. Miller  
195 Islington Road  
Auburndale, MA 02466