

Danielle Delaney

From: Carol Moore
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 1:08 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Danielle Delaney; Cassidy Flynn
Subject: FW: Proposed changes to the Ash St/Comm Ave intersection

Good Afternoon Councilors,

Please see the email below from a resident concerning the Ash Street light removal.

Thank you,

Carol Moore, CMC
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council
City of Newton
PH: 617-796-1202

Pronouns: she/her/hers

When responding, please be aware that the Massachusetts Secretary of State has determined that most email is public record and therefore cannot be kept confidential.

-----Original Message-----

From: Judith Helm <judithhelm34@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 1:06 PM
To: Carol Moore <cmoore@newtonma.gov>
Subject: Proposed changes to the Ash St/Comm Ave intersection

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Dear Ms Moore-My husband and I have lived on both Islington and Kingswood Road for the past 45 years. I have driven in and out of Islington Road at all times of the day, days of the week, and in all four seasons, innumerable times. I have personally witnessed the change in traffic and driving habits over the course of those years making it more and more difficult to safely merge into Comm Ave traffic. The current option of turning left from Islington down the carriage road to access the traffic light at Ash St offers me a safe and timely exit from the neighborhood. Since the removal of the Ash St light was proposed, I have realized that I rarely merge directly from Islington onto Comm Ave and that I use the Ash St light almost exclusively. I can't comprehend how difficult it would be to drive from this neighborhood without that light.

I have also long observed pedestrians crossing Comm Ave at the Ash St light and strongly disagree that flashing pedestrian crossing light will improve safety. Drivers encounter traffic signals consistently and are much more conditioned to acknowledge that they are expected to stop. As drivers are speeding thru that stretch, as they always do, flashing lights on the side of the road do not seem sufficient to protect pedestrians, as I have witnessed the pedestrian crossing at Star Market. I understand that "traffic calming" measures are proposed. I am yet to be convinced, having seen them used in other parts of Newton, that those techniques will actually improve pedestrian safety.

#239-22

The changes proposed in Plan 1 are termed “improvements” but that is a matter of perspective. On behalf of my family and my neighbors, I implore you to consider the consequences of the proposed changes to this Newton neighborhood and its residents as well as the pedestrians who frequent Lyons Field and the Charles River recreation beyond.

Judy Helm
34 Kingswood Road