



[westroxwalks@gmail.com](mailto:westroxwalks@gmail.com)  
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June 7, 2019

By Electronic Mail Only ([chris.osgood@boston.gov](mailto:chris.osgood@boston.gov))  
Boston Transportation Department  
1 City Hall Square, Room 721  
Boston, MA 02201-2043  
Attention: Chris Osgood, Chief of the Streets, Transportation, and Sanitation

Dear Mr. Osgood:

In 2018, the United States saw the [largest number of pedestrians killed \(6,227\) in motor vehicle crashes](#) in nearly 30 years. West Roxbury residents have experienced this trend firsthand with, in aggregate, [one car crash every six weeks](#) involving a person walking or riding a bicycle on Centre and Spring Streets [over the past four years](#). Notably, these incidents include two serious crashes involving pedestrians walking across Centre Street at the intersection with Hastings Street. The crashes resulted in one severe traumatic brain injury in November 2015 and [one fatality in February 2019](#). Additionally, there have been 11 car crashes with cyclists.

These safety concerns were also reported by West Roxbury Main Streets in their [2016 Imagine West Roxbury Report](#). A survey of 702 residents found that nearly 3 in 4 respondents identified the street design as a major barrier to walkability and access to local businesses, and nearly 200 residents requested improvements to cyclist and pedestrian safety, traffic calming, and better parking. We are writing to request your support for the [Go Boston 2030 top priority project to create walk- and bike-friendly main streets](#) via the following changes to Centre and Spring Streets in West Roxbury: 1) traffic lane reduction, 2) improved crosswalks, and 3) addition of protected bicycle lanes.

A “road diet” on Centre and Spring Streets would help decrease motor vehicle travel speeds to posted speed limits, which significantly [reduces the risk of severe injury to pedestrians struck by vehicles](#) and would likely [decrease crosswalk fatalities](#). [Crosswalk improvements recommended](#) include: high-visibility crosswalk markings, parking restrictions on crosswalk approach, adequate nighttime lighting, advance yield here to and stop signs, curb extensions, and pedestrian hybrid beacons. Finally, [Better Bike Lanes](#) would [increase access to the Main Streets district](#), [improve safety for all](#), and are widely [supported by over 80% of local businesses](#).

We eagerly await the proposal of a major street redesign, which includes safety for all street users, at the upcoming meeting on June 20, 2019.

Sincerely,

William Vincent, West Rox Walks  
Jacob Robinson, West Roxbury Main Streets  
Ben Wetherill, West Roxbury Bicycle Chapter  
Brendan Kearney, WalkBoston  
Matthew Lawlor, WalkUP Roslindale  
Becca Wolfson, Boston Cyclists Union  
Rachel Poliner, Progressive WRox/Roz  
Ambar Johnson, Livable Streets  
Alan Wright, RozzieBikes

Copy to:

Gregory Rooney, Commissioner, Property Management  
Jack Duggan, Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services  
Matt O’Malley, District 6 City Councilor  
Michelle Wu, At-Large City Councilor  
Althea Garrison, At-Large City Councilor  
Michael F. Flaherty, At-Large City Councilor  
Annissa Essaibi-George, At-Large City Councilor

