

Cespedes, Christopher

From: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 1:54 PM
To: Cespedes, Christopher
Subject: FW: traffic safety concern

From: susan hurwitz <XXXXXXX@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 11:46 AM
To: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <XXXXXXX@a2gov.org>; Hutchinson, Nicholas XXXXXXX@a2gov.org
Subject: traffic safety concern

Good morning,

I am writing because I had a disturbing experience/observation about a potentially dangerous situation a few months ago.

A friend I was talking with yesterday recommended I email you about this. I am a longtime resident of Ann Arbor.

I was waiting to leave the Produce Station parking lot on S. State when I heard and saw multiple emergency vehicles moving quickly down State St. There were at least a dozen; police cars, fire trucks, ambulances coming from what looked to be outside agencies. It was late afternoon and it seemed like they were headed towards campus.

I watched as the line of vehicles came to a halt as they passed Stimson heading towards Packard. I had this sudden realization that they were unable to proceed with speed because of the bike lanes that had protective barricades. This got me thinking about the various other roads which might become impassable in an emergency because of plans to limit lanes. My friend had mentioned that the lane on State at Packard has become congested because it is also a left turn lane. So the combination of that, plus bike lanes plus multiple emergency vehicles was quite alarming.

When I got home, I immediately checked my phone and saw that there was a protest at a campus building. It apparently was peaceful and perhaps the call for multiple emergency units was not necessary, but what if it had been a real campus emergency, like the one at MSU last year? I saw later that many more of these vehicles were converging on the city from all main arteries.

What are drivers supposed to do? We are all taught in drivers' ed that when we see or hear sirens/flashing lights, we move over to the right to let them pass. But in this instance and in the future, I'm wondering how, as the car lanes are removed, is the safe passage of emergency vehicles going to be possible??? I saw with my own eyes that drivers couldn't move over because of the bike lanes. Even for those bike lanes without barricades, what's a driver supposed to do? How are real emergencies going to be handled in a timely manner?

Thank you for your time and consideration. Feel free to email or call if you need more information.

Susan Hurwitz
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