



August 22, 2019

Dear Friend,

Traffic and transportation have always been a part of Boston's civic conversation. Whether wondering why the MBTA hasn't shown up yet; waiting each fall for the first "Storrowing" of the new school year; or letting someone know you probably can't get there from here . . . at least not quickly. How we move – or don't – is how we live.

Recently the Vision Zero Coalition asked candidates for their views on transportation issues in the city. [You can read my responses to their questions here.](#)

We know that changes must occur in our transportation modes and priorities in order for us to remain a fully functional city. This makes it even more important to elevate public transportation and alternative means of commuting, such as cycling, as viable, fully resourced options for residents. As part of these conversations we must ensure that equity and access for all communities, especially historically underserved ones, are guiding principles in these efforts.

At the same time we must collaborate on a regional level as well to develop comprehensive, sustainable transportation solutions. Therefore it is critical that we work with neighboring cities & towns, and through Boston's State House delegation, to find regional transit solutions. Boston must lead these discussions and efforts as the hub of both the MBTA and private transportation throughout New England.

The best transportation option is making travel by vehicle unnecessary whenever we can. By creating more compact, walkable neighborhood centers we can reduce the overall pressure on transportation infrastructure. Roslindale Village is a good example of this, with vibrant and diverse commercial, social, and civic amenities easily accessible for many without a car. Every neighborhood should have access to this same variety and concentration of services, reflective of the culture, character, and needs of residents.

The gains achieved by doing this are not limited to transit. These spaces help increase the viability of small business success by aggregating a larger customer base; they are safer due to the amount of foot traffic and smaller overall footprint; and, most importantly, they help foster closer connections and interactions between members of the community. When working to address transportation issues it can be just as important to think about bringing goods and services to residents as it is moving residents to where those things are.

I look forward to hearing your feedback on this important issue. Reach out to us on social media using "@VoteHalbert" and at [info@davidhalbert.com](mailto:info@davidhalbert.com).

Thank you.

- David