

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS
Received: April 12, 2024 (after 9:00 a.m.) – April 15, 2024 (before 5:00 p.m.)
April 15, 2024 Council Meeting
ADDENDUM

Submitted on Fri, 04/12/2024 - 12:22

First Name

Tom

Last Name

Morgan

Email

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Address

39 Richards Avenue

Message

Glad to see some progress on lifting the city's restrictions on electric vehicle (EV) chargers.

On March 21, the Planning Board voted to remove a major impediment to chargers when they recommended amending the ordinance to expressly permit chargers as an accessory use in much of the city. Councilor Denton's proposed revisions, as detailed in your April 15 meeting packet, would remove the other major impediment to Level 3 EV chargers (25-minute charge), namely the off-street parking restrictions in Article 11 of the zoning ordinance. Councilor Denton's proposal would grant an exemption to the equipment associated with Level 3 chargers. This may seem like a minor detail, however it can make the difference (and it has) between success and failure.

I am writing to request that you support Councilor Denton's proposed revisions.

Why is this important?

NH DES calculates that the transportation sector accounts for 46% of NH's greenhouse gas emissions. In order to persuade motorists to transition away from fossil fuels, EV chargers must be ubiquitous.

Some 46% of Portsmouth residents are renters. City landlords have little financial incentive to install Level 2 chargers. In the absence of Level 2 chargers at home, Level 3 chargers must be available nearby. Otherwise it is not practical for a Portsmouth renter to own an EV.

Thank you for your consideration

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Fri, 04/12/2024 - 14:46

First Name

barbara

Last Name

marino

Email

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Address

1345 Islington St

Message

Peveryly is unsafe to bike or walk along but I see people doing both. Biking is unsafe with the narrow and very rough roadway. Walkers have to step off the pavement to avoid getting hit by the big trucks that use this street. Please create a safe lane for bike riders and a sidewalk for pedestrians. thank you

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Sun, 04/14/2024 - 20:05

First Name

Matthew

Last Name

Glenn

Email

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Address

34 Harrison Avenue

Message

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

Those of us at Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders are looking forward to the creation of a new Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and we hope that we can help to identify and prioritize projects that can create a real network in the next 5-7 years. While the 2014 plan was excellent and very thorough, the only time in the last ten years that city staff presented a report to Council on progress was in 2018. We need to do much more to track progress and share plans with the public.

Along very similar lines, I'll point out that our Complete Streets Policy under "implementation" states that "The Planning Department shall make an annual report to the City Council showing progress made in implementing this policy". I'm not aware of this ever happening (unless we count that 2018 bike/ped update). It doesn't seem that the ten "performance measures" have been tracked or reported on publicly either. Are we living up to this policy?

https://files.cityofportsmouth.com/files/planning/completestreet_policy.pdf

So while a new bike/ped plan is very welcome, if being a "bike-friendly" and "walk-friendly" community is truly a priority then we need to do more each year to track our progress and set our goals in public. A bicycle and pedestrian advisory committee charged with implementation would also be a big help— but I'll write more about that later.

Best regards,

Matt Glenn

Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders

seacoastbikes.org

P.S. Kudos to the young "councilor" during Student Government Day who laid out an eloquent case for \$100k more in Bike/Ped funding—the vote was unanimous!

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes
