

Patrick Reed
Town of Nantucket
Planning & Land Use Services
2 Fairgrounds Rd
Nantucket, MA 02554

Jun 10, 2022

Dear Patrick Reed,

Please accept this as my letter of interest to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

I remember about 16/17 years ago (a few years before I moved out of the Netherlands...) I agreed with a friend of mine to go play tennis with him one night. Unfortunately there was snow expected, and we doubted whether we should go or not (and whether the tennis club would be open that night...).

It turned out that the tennis club would be open, and we both agreed to go. As I neither had a car nor a driver's license (I currently still do not have a driver's license...), I had to take my bike. It was about a 2.5 miles bike ride from my house to the club, but it was snowing quite heavily, and that made it quite difficult. I did make it in one piece to the tennis club though.

The reason I am bringing this up is that I remember only thinking about how slippery it would be, however, I never really considered it to be too dangerous because of other people on the road (and then especially people driving a car...).

The 2.5 miles bike ride from my home to the club was almost completely via separated bike paths, so I only needed to make sure I didn't slip and fall, but didn't really have to watch out for cars on the road. The bike and walking infrastructure in the Netherlands (practically everywhere, from small villages to big cities...) is something I really miss here in the United States.

As I was born and raised in the Netherlands (growing up in a town called Hoorn, which has about 60,000 to 70,000 inhabitants to the north of Amsterdam...), and grew up using a bike almost every day, I think that would already automatically bring some expertise when it comes to biking (and walking) infrastructure.

Infrastructure in general is a big interest of mine as well. As an example, one of my favorite Youtube documentary creators (about urban planning), whom my husband and I frequently watch, is [Not Just Bikes](#). These very informative short documentaries are created by a Canadian living in Amsterdam and he is comparing Dutch/European infrastructure with North American infrastructure (with the emphasis on biking infrastructure, but not only that...).

I also work as the Admin Assistant to the Director of Facilities here at the Nantucket Public Schools, so I could be a link to the school (or helpful in any other way...), if the Town ever wants to work together on a biking or walking infrastructure project with the school. In my opinion, one of the issues on Nantucket is (when it comes to biking and walking...) the current unsafe situation for children to bike and walk to school.

Besides the unsafe situation for students, I also think we really have an opportunity to improve our current bike and walking infrastructure on the island, which could help with alleviating some of the car traffic, which seems to get busier and more clogged every year.

As mentioned before, I am very interested in becoming part of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Let me know if you need any additional information from me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,
Michel

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