
Keep cyclists safe by adding traffic lights, not bike lanes

BY TONY AVELLA

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The city wants to install more bike lanes. But a better way to keep cyclists safe is to add traffic lights. (MICHAEL SCHWARTZ /FOR NEW YORK DAILY NEWS)

It's great that we have more cyclists than ever. Obviously, we have to make the road safe for them. That doesn't mean that putting bike lanes everywhere is the safest thing for bicyclists or motorists.

People are getting killed and seriously hurt at numerous intersections throughout the city — yet the city is more focused on bike lanes rather than installing traffic lights because that stops traffic.

Putting in a bike lane doesn't slow down traffic and it doesn't create a situation, where a bicyclist should know the stop either.

It's almost like you need an act of God to get an all-way stop or a traffic light.



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(COURTESY OF SENATOR TONY AVELLA)

But the bike lanes, there is still no real community involvement about where they go. To me, the mayor and Department of Transportation are more interested in a press release to say “we installed 18 more miles of bike lanes” without taking a serious look at what has the existing bike lanes have done.

The city has to balance the need of bicyclists along with the needs of motorists and the need to move traffic in the city of New York.

It’s impossible to get from one end of the town to the other with traffic the way it is.

There should be more community involvement and more study before you put in a bike lane to ensure that you’re putting the bicyclist on a safe street.

I don’t think there’s any study, I don’t think there’s any review and I don’t think there’s any real community involvement.

Again, there has to be a balance between motorists and bicyclists and both have to obey the rules of the road.

Tony Avella is a state senator from Queens.

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