

AL VOLPE 52-40 39th DRIVE, WOODSIDE, NY 11377 718 899-2671

A few days ago I was driving on 54 Street toward Queens Blvd with the light in my favor. At the last moment two bike riders on QB, not wearing helmets, started to cross 54 Street against the light. I had to brake hard in order to miss them. However, if I had hit them, in the current climate, news reports would have blamed me, even though the bikers were violating the law. The car is always to blame.

The biker lobby wants to convert one car lane on QB for exclusive bike use. Just think of the huge increase in air pollution as auto traffic backs up in one lane less. But there is more.

The biker lobby has already impacted adversely our quality of life. Instead of putting bike lanes on 39th Avenue, which is residential and quiet, the bike lobby has narrowed Skillman and 43 Avenue, our busy commercial streets, to install their exclusive bike lanes, making driving more difficult and dangerous. But there is more.

Bikers want to kill Skillman Avenue. Their plan is to make Skillman only one lane. How will we shop? A group called "Safer Skillman Avenue Coalition" wants to remove at least one parking space from each corner of each Skillman Ave intersection. That could be 8 parking spaces at each intersection! It's in their literature! Meanwhile, where will we park?

Also, in their literature, they want to narrow Skillman by 10 feet to put in a 'protected' bike lane. Hello one-lane Skillman! This is all to benefit the few unlicensed and unhelmeted bikers against the many car drivers. Recently "Safer Skillman" got petitions signed to remove parking spaces from Skillman and 52, claiming they would remove "only 1" spot, but admitted to me that they would remove 3. But parking is so limited that we can't afford to lose any spots.

I suggested to DOT Commissioner McCarthy that the corner of Skillman and 52 should get a speed bump in addition to the stop sign. That should satisfy reasonable people. But, right now, with a traffic light controlling 2 directions at that intersection, and the cars coming up 52 obliged to make a right turn only, how could a car obeying the law have hit a pedestrian unless the pedestrian jumped out from between 2 cars without looking? That's o.k., blame the car anyway, and remove 3 parking spaces. Soon enough, if the bikers have their way, there will be no parking spaces and no cars.

We have to save all parking spaces in our neighborhood. We have to fight for drivers' rights.

To do:

- 1. Get signatures. 'They' have secured hundreds.**
- 2. Attend Community Board meeting Thurs. Nov. 6. 7Pm 43-31 39th Street. (Sunnyside Community Services)**
- 3. Sign up to speak. 'They' will be out in force.**
- 4. Speak out in defense of parking.**

Eric Gioia, Councilman,
Maura McCarthy, DOT Commissioner,
Joe Conley, Pres. CB2:.

It is very hard to find a parking space in our neighborhood, especially near Skillman Avenue. In reality, we need more spaces.

We oppose those who want to take away parking spaces, to "daylight", anywhere in our safe neighborhood. The many senior citizens who drive will be hurt if we lose any parking spaces. It will be harder to shop; our quality of life will suffer. Skillman Avenue is a very safe street. Taking away parking spaces will not improve safety. If anything, help us obtain more parking spaces.
