

Lauren Clark and Kevin Eckert
30 Prospect Street
Watertown, MA 02472

August 24, 2024

Mr. George Proakis, City Manager
City of Watertown
149 Main St
Watertown, MA 02472

Dear Mr. Proakis,

As recent homeowners in Watertown, we've been generally impressed by the city's efficiency and thoughtfulness when it comes to transportation and public works improvements. We're writing today to bring to your attention a dangerous intersection in the northwest corner of Watertown.

The intersection of Belmont St, Prospect Street, and Sycamore Street is currently configured as a 4 way intersection controlled with stop signs on Prospect Avenue and Sycamore Street. There is a signalized pedestrian crosswalk approximately 50' to the west at the intersection of Belmont Street and Circuit Lane. At the northwest corner of the intersection there is Sycamore Auto Service, Wizard of Pawz and Alden Locksmiths is located at the northeast corner, Gerry's Italian Kitchen is located at the southeast corner, and First Step Child Care and Francis Market are located at the southwest corner of Belmont Street and Prospect Street. Traffic primarily travels along Belmont Street with a significant minority of cars turning onto Sycamore Street to use it as a through street to Lexington Street and eventually Trapelo Road.

After several close calls as pedestrians, bikers, and drivers, we're motivated to ask the city to consider reconfiguring the intersection of Belmont Street and Sycamore/Prospect Street as a signalized intersection with pedestrian acuated crosswalks. In our short time here, we've repeatedly noticed that drivers do not respect the signalized crosswalk at Circuit Lane and turning on to Belmont Street from either Prospect Street or Sycamore Street has significant blind spots. There is simply not enough sight distance to judge the speed of traffic safely when making a turn. Because Sycamore Street and Prospect Street are not aligned with each other, making a left turn onto either street from Belmont Street causes traffic to queue on both directions of Belmont Street. This in turn leads to driver impatience and increases the chance of unsafe behavior.

We see the advantages of creating a signalized intersection at Belmont Street and Sycamore/Prospect Street as thus:

- Improves driver and biker safety by creating space for turning movements without concern for oncoming traffic
- Improves pedestrian safety by providing crosswalks at a busy intersection surrounded by businesses and residences
- Provides traffic calming along Belmont Street and Sycamore Street by forcing drivers to stop at regular intervals
- Improves opportunities for fewer car trips since local businesses will be easier to access by foot and by bike.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and invite you to come walk the site with us to view and discuss our concerns, along with possible remedies.

Best regards,

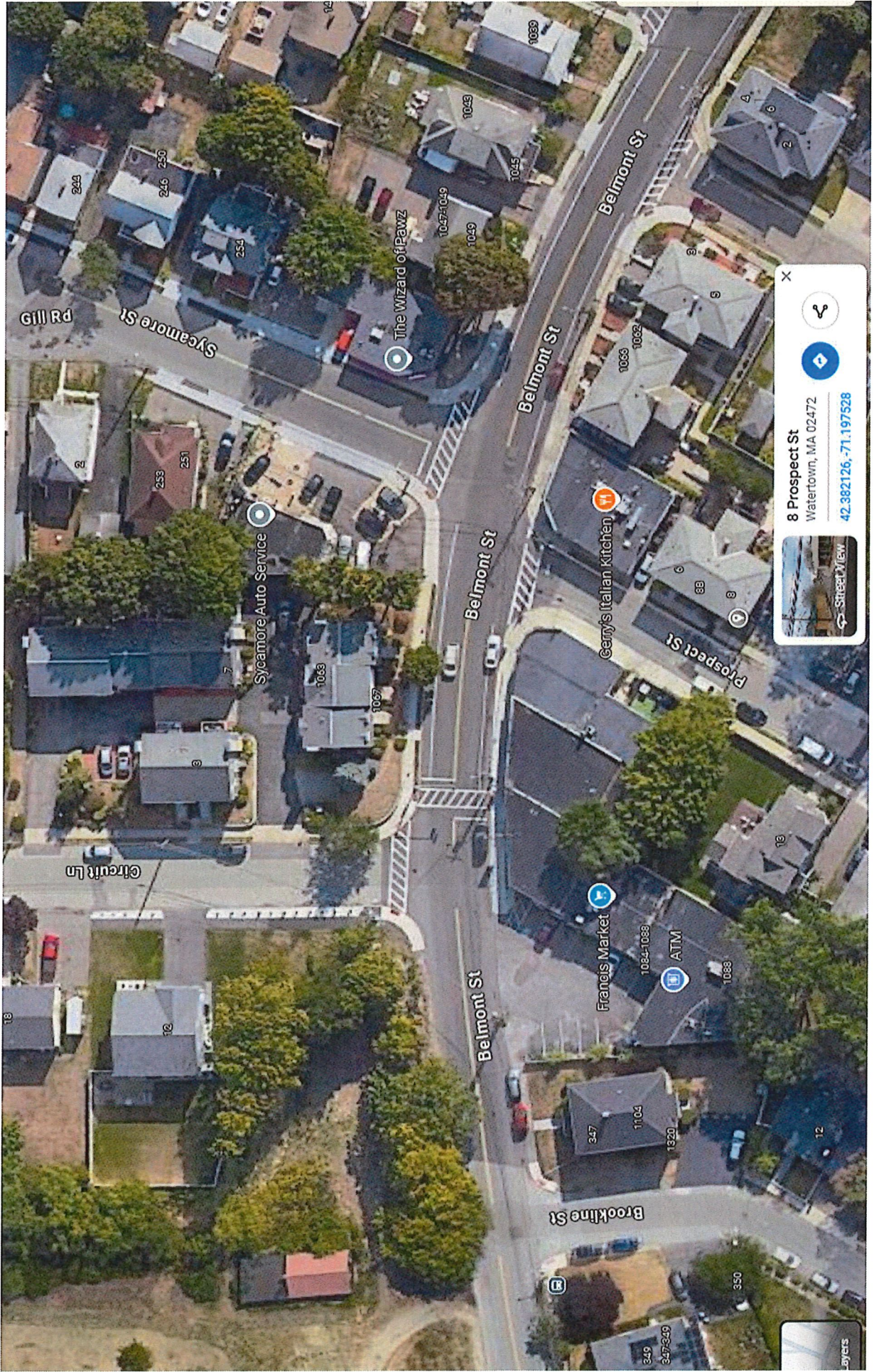


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Belmont Street @ Sycamore/Prospect Streets







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