

City of Cambridge

7.

VICE MAYOR VELLUCCI

IN CITY COUNCIL
September 22, 1986

ORDERED:

That the City Manager be requested to direct the Assistant City Manager for Community Development to meet with the Planning Team and the Stabilization Committee to see if a limited supplemental analysis to the E.I.S. for East Cambridge is necessary, bearing in mind that the Council has made it clear in Council Order #34 of August 4, 1986, that its primary concern is new development in the East Cambridge neighborhood between Second Street and the railroad tracks; and be it further

ORDERED:

That the last two developments in the Triangle be requested to perform a supplemental analysis as it relates to traffic and parking only as part of their Planning Board applications; and be it further

ORDERED:

That it is the position of the City that the completion of the Triangle is a City goal; we do not want to prolong that completion with study after study; we want the projects complete so that the construction will end, the area will be completed and the parks, the Canal and the riverfront itself can be open and available to the people of East Cambridge as was planned by all back in 1976.

In City Council September 22, 1986.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.
Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, Acting City Clerk.

A true copy:

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton

Joseph E. Connarton, Acting City Clerk.

The East Cambridge Planning Team
c/o Paul Dodds, Secretary/Treasurer
83 Third Street
East Cambridge, MA 02141

The East Cambridge
Stabilization Committee
c/o Patricia Shapiro
One Fifth Street
East Cambridge, MA 02141

September 10, 1986

Re.: Update of Environmental Impact Statements

Dear Concerned Officials:

The members of both the East Cambridge Planning Team and the East Cambridge Stabilization Committee have voted to ask you to undertake a comprehensive update of the Environmental Impact Statements for both the Kendall Square and Lechmere Triangle projects.

We are making this unusual request because we believe that conditions have changed drastically since the Statements were prepared. In general, the Statements justified very intense development within the project areas by making two critical assumptions which time has proven wrong. First, they assumed that no unanticipated development would occur outside of the project areas. Second, they assumed that the adverse impacts of the developments within the project areas would be taken care of by government action. Those assumptions are constantly used to justify massive developments. We feel strongly that the "squeeze is on" in East Cambridge. Traffic and housing prices are getting out of control. Before more major development is approved, we want to know how tight the squeeze will be.

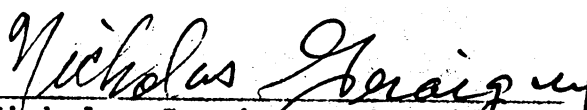
There are many aspects of the Statements which we feel need to be studied in more detail; this letter will only list a few. The Statements assumed that there would be no major changes in land use patterns around the Kendall Square Urban Renewal Area or the Lechmere Triangle before 1990. Because there has been no update, there has thus been no comprehensive study of the impacts of any of the following developments: Phases One and Two of the Riverfront Office Park, One Broadway, Phase Two of the Carter Ink Building, the U.S. Trust Building, the FAR Group condominiums, the Adweh condominiums, the Twin City Mall, the office conversion of the American Bullrite Rubber Co. complex, the Prison Point entrance to Route 93, any

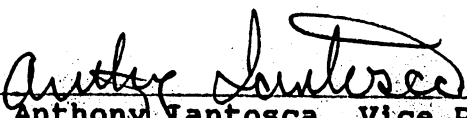
projected development for North Point or any building in Boston over the past decade. The Statements assumed that large sections of each project area - now used or planned for office towers - would be devoted to housing. The government was to act to protect the neighborhood from overdevelopment. The Binney Street connector was to be built before the Riverfront developments were in place. If needed, truck restrictions were to be imposed on neighborhood streets; a system of one way streets was to be adopted for residential East Cambridge and a tax lien law was to be put in place to protect East Cambridge residents from speculative increases in land value.

When the people of East Cambridge approved the overall plans for the development of Kendall Square and the Lechmere Triangle, we did so because experts told us that we would be protected from its adverse impacts. Some of the protection we were promised has not been forthcoming; conditions have changed to make even the promised protection sadly inadequate. We feel owed at least the courtesy of an explanation. What are today's figures? What are today's projections? For traffic, for pollution, for housing prices, for taxes, for neighborhood employment, for impact to historical buildings, for all the factors which were studied a decade ago? To make careful decisions on which projects to endorse, we need more than old data with ad hoc updates; we think that you do as well. We feel that only a comprehensive review of the Kendall Square and Lechmere Triangle Environmental Impact Statements will give us the needed information.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and concern.

Very truly yours,


Nicholas Geraigery, President
The East Cambridge Planning Team


Anthony Vantasca, Vice President
The East Cambridge Planning Team
Chairman, The Stabilization Committee


Paul Dodds, Secretary/Treas.
The East Cambridge Planning Team
Vice Chairman, The Stabilization Committee

CC:

Hon. Members of the Cambridge City Council

Members of the Planning Board

Members of the Board of Zoning Appeal

Cambridge City Manager

Cambridge Community Development Department

Cambridge Redevelopment Authority

Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

Cambridge Chronicle

Cambridge Tab

Boston Globe

Boston Herald American

Comm. from Nicholas Geraigery, Pres., Anthony Iantosca, Vice-Pres. & Paul Dodds, Sec./Treas., East Cambridge Planning Team, requesting the City Council to undertake a comprehensive update of the Environmental Impact Statements for both the Kendall Sq. & Lechmere Triangle projects.

In City Council,

September 22, 1986

*Referred to the City Manager
and
Planning Board*

*Copy sent to the City Manager +
Les Barber, Planning Board along
with Order #7 of this date (copy
within) 9/24/86 ulh*