

Cambridge Citizens for Liveable Neighborhoods
Box 380019
Cambridge MA 02238

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November 9, 1994

To the Honorable City Council
City of Cambridge
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Councillors,

Enclosed are 380 petitions from Cambridge residents. These individuals have written to you requesting that you to maintain Cambridge's lawsuit against the Central Artery's "Son-of-Z" plan, and to instruct the City Manager to NOT SIGN to accept mitigations.

The proposed Charles River Crossing (Son of Z) is a very poor deal for Cambridge. The rationale for the Central Artery is aesthetic, with more than \$11 billion to be spent to beautify just one mile in Boston's financial district. But the proposed interchange over the Charles River, Cambridge, and Charlestown is an aesthetic and environmental nightmare. Its maze of spaghetti-like twists and turns will place the Charles in a 330-foot culvert and spew out noise and pollution 24 hours a day, turning parts of Cambridge into an unhealthy battle zone, all done to speed suburban travelers' commutes.

The value of these so-called "mitigations" as currently proposed, is a mere fraction of the highway's land value itself, and woefully inadequate for city residents who will suffer from the increased traffic, noise, and pollution. It is doubtful: moreover, that the City will ever see a penny of the promised funds since the state's share of the project already exceeds \$4 billion, a sum which cannot be met without gutting the state's economy for decades. Courts have already ruled that agreements of the type about to be signed are unenforceable.

We urge you to instruct the City Manager to forego negotiating for mitigations. We instead ask that the City of Cambridge pursues a Charles River Crossing plan which lessens the impact of the Artery and one that more closely meets the needs of Cambridge.

Sincerely,



Phillip Segal
Cambridge Citizens for Liveable Neighborhoods

Consnet Comm. # 10

CM-411
Cal # 11

Comm. from Phillip Sego, Cambridge Citizens for Liveable Neighborhoods, transmitting 380 petitions from residents requesting the city to maintain the lawsuit against the Central Artery's "Son of Z" plan and request the City Manager not to sign the mitigation acceptance.

In City Council,

November 14, 1994

*Charter Right
exercised by
Councilman Walsh
11/21/94 Referred to
Executive Session on
12/12/94
12/12/94 - No executive
session held.*