

To: Honorable City Councillors and the City Manager

From: Richard M. Brescia, President, East Cambridge Planning Team

September 12, 1974

To the Honorable City Council and the City Manager:

As the newly-elected President of the East Cambridge Planning Team and the former Chairman of the East Cambridge NASA Task Force on the redevelopment of Kendall Square, I feel I must comment on the issue before the City Council tonight. First, I must clearly state that my comments are my own- they do not reflect the feelings or positions of other Planning Team members. As you know, the Planning Team voted at a regularly scheduled meeting support for the MIT plan. This was before the City Manager offered his own plan. I disagreed with the Planning Team position taken that night for very specific reasons I felt I should communicate with you.

Personally I feel this whole process has taken its toll on the morale and the dedication of the Planning Team. Pressures for us to endorse a particular plan have been heavy-handed, to say the least. I do not believe the neighborhood has experienced such a divisive and destructive process. I think this pressure may indicate the lack of respect MIT has for the ability of the Planning Team and individual neighborhood residents to make up their own minds and decide for themselves. I think it shows to what degree the democratic process of the neighborhood is or can be manipulated. I know that they may be sacrificing, in their desperation, our respect for them as a friend and neighbor. The saddest part of it is that people in the neighborhood are saying they don't care what is built

on Kendall Square, that "they will get what they want anyway", and that they hope its over soon. My fear is that it will only get worse.

I personally feel that the average resident, presentations by MIT and the CRA notwithstanding, does not know how to judge the impact of any of the proposals. I certainly don't feel that the information provided about either MIT's plan or the Manager's give a clue about "what it will be like" living next to such a project. I hope, in their wisdom, that the Councillors and the Manager can not only make an intelligent decision, but can also communicate confidently to the communities that they will not be threatened. At least the Task Force served to ask the important questions. The experts, however, still have not provided the answers.

I am personally shocked that MIT has the professional courage to print a pamphlet, resembling some of the hollow campaign literature we've seen lately, implying that its source was the City of Cambridge. Why did they not autograph their own production? The pamphlet is also typical in its lack of substantive fact and analysis. Slick advertising hoping to catch our eye. We all assumed they respected our intelligence more than they do. For them to call their MIT plan "the Neighborhood Plan" is the ultimate insult.

I personally support the plan offered by the Task Force. I strongly urge the Council to deal with the Task Force recommendations to the Manager's plan. Resident input is essential to continued planning. The Manager has his own priorities and concerns, MIT has theirs, and WE have ours. Citizen involvement is necessary to force a close look at traffic, job quality and accessibility to Cambridge residents, and the other major impact questions.

Richard M. Brescia



City of Cambridge

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 23, 1974

ORDERED:

That the City Manager is requested to negotiate a cooperation agreement between the City of Cambridge and the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority respecting design review and developer selection activities in connection with the Kendall Square Urban Renewal Project.



City of Cambridge

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 23, 1974

WHEREAS:-

The Housing and Land Development Committee, and the Economic Development, Manpower and Employment Committee have heard ten (10) hours of testimony by the public and Manager's Technical Staff at two (2) public meetings held to discuss the City Manager's Land Use Proposals for Kendall Square Development submitted to City Council on July 24, 1974;

NOW, THEREFORE:-

The Cambridge City Council approves the City Manager's land use proposals in principle, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That the CRA, within two (2) weeks of executing a contract with an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) consultant, set aside a week to hold at least two public meetings, in the evening, in order to give interested groups and individuals an opportunity to voice their concerns about possible environmental impacts;
- (b) That the CRA ensure that community input, through scheduled public meetings and otherwise, be provided during the entire process of preparation of the EIS, which study must consider not only my proposal but at least two alternative proposals as well;
- (c) That the preliminary draft EIS be made available for additional public comment immediately upon its submission to HUD; and that one or more public meetings be held on the final draft EIS, prior to its submission to HUD, in order for additional public comment to be considered, and, if appropriate, incorporated into the final draft EIS finally submitted to HUD;
- (d) That CRA make available, for general distribution, copies of the final draft EIS as submitted to HUD, including public comments reflected therein, and copies of any statement made by HUD regarding environmental impact;
- (e) That both the final draft EIS and the HUD environmental impact statement indicate that execution of my proposal will not result in an over-all unacceptable negative environmental impact as determined by HUD.

FURTHER:-

Cambridge City Council requests the City Manager to ask CRA to prepare a so-called "Part I Amendatory Application" to HUD, based on the Manager's land use proposals for Kendall Square.



City of Cambridge

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 23, 1974

ORDERED:

That the City Manager is requested to prepare a program providing for on-going citizen participation in the formulation and execution of plans for renewal in the Kendall Square Area.



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Redevelopment - Kendall Square

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

Sept 23 1974

Tabled Motion Passed 4-5-0

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mrs. Ackermann		✓		
Mr. Clinton		✓		
Mr. Danehy	✓			
Mr. Duehay		✓		
Mrs. Graham		✓		
Mr. Russell	✓			
Mr. Vellucci	✓			
Mr. Wylie		✓		
Mayor Sullivan	✓			
	4	5	0	

Failed to Take

City of Cambridge

In City Council September 23, 1975

The Joint Committee on Housing and Land
Development and Economic Development Manpower and
to which Employment to which was referred the City Manager's
plan for development of Kendall Square

Reports, That public hearings
were held on September 12th and September 21, 1974
at which time all interested citizens were heard.
The Committee reports the following matters to the
City Council for action.

For the Committee

Sandra Graham, Chairman
Housing and Land Development

David A. Wylie, Chairman
Economic Development, Man-
power, and Employment.

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REPORT

Committee on Housing and Land
Development and Economic
Development

Referred to
Hearing set for PPM
Before City Council--
9/30/74

Hearing continued until
October 2, 1974 at 1 PM

In City Council
Sept. 23, 1974

Proposals voted on
in City Council at
Oct 7th Meeting
Recessed to Oct 9th