

***NORTH CAMBRIDGE STABILIZATION COMMITTEE***

6 Saint Gerard Terrace  
Cambridge, MA 02140  
27 October, 1998

Steve White  
Department of Public Works  
147 Hampshire Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**RE: Mass Ave Redesign Process**

Dear Mr. White:

On behalf of the North Cambridge Stabilization Committee (NCSC), I would like to thank you for attending our meeting last month where you updated us on the status of the Mass Ave redesign. It was truly informative and you answered several important questions such as when the actual earth moving part of the construction on the Avenue was going to start.

Also on behalf of the Committee, I would like to challenge your view that there was a "good consensus" on either the project or the process of the this redesign and that, for the most part, it has been "win/win." I can only say that you are obviously not listening to the people who talk to me, because the vast majority of them think the Avenue redesign, especially the loss of the median strip, will make this stretch of road much more dangerous than it already is. Many people have also complained that the public meeting process, which did not include a Citizen's Committee as was used for Porter Square, left them feeling railroaded and ignored. Further, numerous people have voiced complaints that questions and requests posed in the beginning of the process, such as requests for a site specific safety study, were never answered despite all the meetings you counted off. Meetings without meaningful information transfer are useless meetings, and most of the redesign meetings fell into that category.

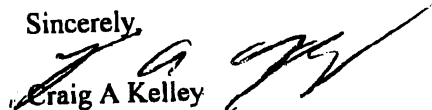
Given the completely different version you and the NCSC have of how the process worked, we ask that you give us written guidelines for the next round of meetings which should start soon. We also ask that the City commit in writing to answering the public's questions as opposed to merely holding meetings and not saying anything of substance.

Given the traumatic experience the residents of Mid-Cambridge have had with their street redesign, the NCSC is not willing to sit by and let DPW work on its own. We are eager to be partners with your department in this project, but it must be an equal partnership. The City's acknowledging that there is a lot of frustration in the neighborhood and seeking an honest way to address that frustration would be the first step in creating that partnership.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly about the future of this redesign and its attendant process. You may call me at 354-8353 or contact me via email at [VoteCraig@att.net](mailto:VoteCraig@att.net).

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

  
Craig A Kelley

cc: City Council  
City Manager

Consent Communication #14 6955

A communication was received from  
Craig A. Kelley, transmitting  
a letter regarding Massachusetts  
Avenue redesign process.

In: City Council November 2, 1998

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