

NORTH CAMBRIDGE STABILIZATION COMMITTEE

6 Saint Gerard Terrace
Cambridge, MA 02140
29 April, 1999

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Cambridge Council
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: Mass Ave Redesign Project Rehearings

Dear Councilors:

On behalf of the North Cambridge Stabilization Committee (NCSC), I thank you for directing that the Council Subcommittee on Traffic and Parking review the North Mass Ave Redesign. The NCSC also raises the following issues concerning the proposed Redesign and any future Council or Council Subcommittee hearings:

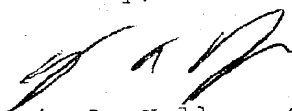
- All meetings should be held in North Cambridge during non-business hours. For a variety of reasons, including transportation problems, age and poor health, many people have trouble justifying a trip to Central Square to talk about a North Cambridge problem.
- There should be at least three hearings..
- Updated plans should be available for the public to take home at all meetings.
- The meetings should break from traditional Council Subcommittee format. Members of the community must be able to ask questions directly to the project's proponents. If the proponents do not adequately answer the question, the community members must be given the chance to repeat the question until an adequate answer is made. To allow City officials to properly prepare for these sessions, questions may be submitted in writing before the meeting.
- The City must aggressively advertise these meetings and schedule them, through the community, several weeks in advance.
- The City must provide a detailed explanation of current scheduling and funding issues.
- The City may wish to locate a college intern to help facilitate this matter.
- An **Independent** ombudsman must be appointed for the project.

It cannot be overemphasized how poorly the City has handled this redesign from all angles. These new hearings may, if properly handled, allow the City to approach the redesign afresh and create a design that truly promotes the safety and welfare of the residents and businesses of North Cambridge. If not properly handled, these new hearings will do little to alleviate the current public outrage and future decrease in safety caused by both the project and the process.

As always, I may be contacted at 354-8353 or VoteCraig@att.net if you have any questions about this or any other North Cambridge issue.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Craig A. Kelley, Chair

Consent Communication #13

3345

A communication was received from
Craig A. Kelley, Chair, North Cambridge
Stabilization Committee, relative
to the Mass. Ave. Redesign Project
Rehearings.

In City Council May 3, 1999

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