



City of Cambridge

O-21.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 19, 2001

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
 COUNCILLOR BORN
 COUNCILLOR DECKER
 MAYOR GALLUCCIO
 VICE MAYOR MAHER
 COUNCILLOR REEVES
 COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
 COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The Central Square Artery Project promised amenities including parks and pedestrian walkways that would make Cambridge more livable and walkable; and

WHEREAS: As part of the new Charles River Basin Project, access to park via bridges may be either limited and/or eliminated; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That this City Council go on record expressing concern at the potential plan to limit or eliminate access to parks as part of the new Charles River Basin Project; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to forward the concerns of the City Council to the Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

In City Council March 19, 2001.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

0.21

Councilman Davis

Whereas The Central Sq. Artery Project promised amenities including parks & pedestrian walkways that would make Cambridge more livable & walkable; ~~now therefore~~ ~~be it~~; &

~~Whereas:~~
Resolved ~~that the City Council~~

Whereas: As part of the New Charles River Basin Project access to parks ^{via bridges} ~~may be~~ ~~lost~~ may be ~~lost~~ either limited and/or eliminated; now therefore be it

Resolved That this City Council go on record ~~and~~ expressing concerns at the potential plan to limit or eliminate access to parks as part of the New Charles River Basin Project. ~~Be it further~~ & be it further

~~Resolved~~ ^{Ordered} That the City Manager be & hereby is requested to forward the ~~City Council's~~ ^{City Council's} concerns of the City Council to the Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

CAMBRIDGE PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE
57 Inman St., Cambridge, MA 02129 617 349-4604

February 28, 2001

Bob Durand
Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway St.
Boston, MA 02114-2119

Dear Secretary Durand:

We, the members of the Cambridge Pedestrian Committee, are writing to express our great concerns over possible plans to limit or eliminate bridge access to parks that are part of the New Charles River Basin project. We are also concerned that pedestrian pathways may be eliminated or minimized as part of cutbacks on the project.

The Central Artery project, when it was proposed to us as citizens of Cambridge, promised us many amenities, including parks and pedestrian walkways that would make our City more "livable" and "walkable." This was done in part to alleviate the great traffic burden that Cambridge indisputably will take on with the massive flow of cars from the artery. There has been no alleviation of this burden, but we are being asked to accept cut-backs on the very modest pedestrian facilities that were given to us as part of the project. We protest these proposed cut-backs on the following grounds:

- Pedestrian connections, including bridges, are key to the new park system. Parks don't work if people can't get there.
- "Access" means a safe, reasonable, and comfortable walk to destination points, especially for children and seniors, who are most vulnerable.
- Pedestrian bridges and walkways are key to the regional park concept that is the basis for the New Charles River Basin project.
- History shows that when essential pathways and connections are not built at the outset, they are very unlikely to be built later. Unlike benches, play equipment, and artwork, these connections are part of the core structure, or "spine" of the project, that are difficult to "add on."

We ask that you reaffirm your commitment to pedestrian connections and bridges, and keep your promise to make our city more livable and walkable as a result of this project. Citizens will have little appreciation for your otherwise good work if they can't get there.

Sincerely,



David Loutzenheiser
Chair, Cambridge Pedestrian Committee

cc: Steve Brewer, MHD
Deirdre Buckley, EOEA
Anne Fanton, Central Artery Oversight Committee
Charlotte Fleetwood, CA/T
Karl Haglund, MDC
Julia O'Brien, MDC
Fred Yalouris, CA/T

Cambridge Pedestrian Committee Citizen Members: Brian Culver, Bette Davis, Katherine Fichter, Rona Gregory, Robin Kelsey, Rozann Kraus, David Loutzenheiser, Fred Meyer, Eva Moseley, Elaine Palmer, Stella Tarnay, Allen West



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JEM

Order #21

Concern at the potential plan to
limit or eliminate access to parks as
part of the new Charles River Basin
Project.

Councillor Davis

In City Council March 19, 2001

ORDER ADOPTED