



# Cambridge Public Library

## Location Survey

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# Cambridge Public Library Survey

## *Executive Summary*

A survey was conducted in February of 1999 to solicit the opinions and comments of the Cambridge community regarding various options for a new main library, including renovation of the existing site or building on a new site. The mailing list of five thousand people was a random sampling of the city's registered voter list (58,511) sorted alphabetically. Over a two-week period, 1,009 responses (20%) were collected, a good rate of return for a mail survey. The margin of error for the results of the survey is  $\pm 3.5\%$  at the 95% confidence level.

One-fifth of respondents lives in Neighborhood 6, while Neighborhoods 9, 10 and 11 are also well represented. The majority of respondents from every neighborhood, with the exception of Neighborhood 13, have visited the Main Library within the past 12 months. Almost three-fourths (71%) of the total sample have visited the Main Library within the past 12 months.

Overall, the majority of respondents (61%) prefer the current Broadway site for the location of the Main Library. Of those people who have visited the Main Library within the past 12 months, seventy-two percent prefer the Broadway location. For the total sample, Central Square is the second choice (27%) for location, followed by Alewife (15%) and then Kendall Square (9%). Respondents visiting the Main Library within the past 12 months show the same order of preference for its location.

When asked how likely respondents would be to use a main library at specified locations within the city, most people indicated that they would be less likely to use the Main Library at any of these other locations. Seventy-one percent would be less likely to use a main library in Kendall Square, while two-thirds would be less likely to visit an Alewife location. If the Main Library moved to Central Square, close to half of the respondents (45%) would be less likely to use it.

The survey also asked people to consider the mode(s) of transportation they would be likely to use for each of these possible locations. When visiting the Main Library on Broadway, respondents are much more likely to walk/bike (61%) or drive (52%) and less likely to take the bus or subway (15%). If the Main Library were in Central Square, more (32%) respondents would use public transportation, but most people would still walk/bike (46%) or drive (38%).

For visiting either the Kendall Square and Alewife locations, a majority (51% and 59% respectively) of respondents would drive, followed by the use of public transportation. Less than one fifth of respondents (19%) would walk or bike to either location.

Over one-fourth (27%) of respondent comments support the conclusion that people want the Main Library to remain on Broadway. The reasons most often cited for preference of the current location/building are its convenience, its central location within the City of Cambridge, and its accessibility by public transportation. Respondents also consider the current Main Library's proximity to the High School an advantage. However, 12% of those people who made comments would like to see the Broadway location renovated and/or expanded and many (7%) feel that it needs more parking.

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Q.1, Have you visited the Main Library in the last 12 months?

By Banner 1

	NEIGHBORHOOD														VISITED LAST 12 MOS	
	Total	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Yes	No
Total	1001 100.0%	51 100.0%	12 100.0%	23 100.0%	31 100.0%	79 100.0%	145 100.0%	33 100.0%	47 100.0%	82 100.0%	92 100.0%	113 100.0%	12 100.0%	18 100.0%	711 100.0%	290 100.0%
Yes	711 71.0%	33 64.7%	7 58.3%	16 69.6%	19 61.3%	52 65.8%	129 89.0%	22 66.7%	39 83.0%	66 80.5%	68 73.9%	64 56.6%	7 58.3%	8 44.4%	711 100.0%	
No	290 29.0%	18 35.3%	5 41.7%	7 30.4%	12 38.7%	27 34.2%	16 11.0%	11 33.3%	8 17.0%	16 19.5%	24 26.1%	49 43.4%	5 41.7%	10 55.6%		290 100.0%
No Response	8	1						1	1							

Q.2, If the Main Library moved to Central Square would you be:

By Banner 1

	NEIGHBORHOOD													VISITED LAST 12 MOS		
	Total	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Yes	No
Total	992 100.0%	50 100.0%	12 100.0%	23 100.0%	31 100.0%	79 100.0%	145 100.0%	33 100.0%	47 100.0%	81 100.0%	91 100.0%	112 100.0%	12 100.0%	16 100.0%	703 100.0%	288 100.0%
More likely	226 22.8%	7 14.0%	9 75.0%	5 21.7%	14 45.2%	56 70.9%	20 13.8%	19 57.6%	6 12.8%	5 6.2%	9 9.9%	9 8.0%	2 16.7%	2 12.5%	127 18.1%	98 34.0%
About the same	320 32.3%	21 42.0%	3 25.0%	11 47.8%	9 29.0%	20 25.3%	50 34.5%	11 33.3%	11 23.4%	30 37.0%	34 37.4%	38 33.9%	2 16.7%	8 50.0%	229 32.6%	91 31.6%
Less likely to use it	446 45.0%	22 44.0%		7 30.4%	8 25.8%	3 3.8%	75 51.7%	3 9.1%	30 63.8%	46 56.8%	48 52.7%	65 58.0%	8 66.7%	6 37.5%	347 49.4%	99 34.4%
No Response	17	2						1	1	1	1	1		2	8	2

Q.3, If the Main Library moved to Kendall Square would you be:

By Banner 1

	NEIGHBORHOOD													VISITED LAST 12 MOS		
	Total	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Yes	No
Total	993 100.0%	52 100.0%	12 100.0%	23 100.0%	31 100.0%	78 100.0%	145 100.0%	33 100.0%	47 100.0%	81 100.0%	90 100.0%	113 100.0%	12 100.0%	18 100.0%	701 100.0%	290 100.0%
More likely	90 9.1%	31 59.6%	7 58.3%	7 30.4%	3 9.7%	8 10.3%	4 2.8%		2 4.3%	1 1.2%	3 3.3%	3 2.7%	2 16.7%	1 5.6%	49 7.0%	40 13.8%
About the same	199 20.0%	12 23.1%	4 33.3%	7 30.4%	13 41.9%	33 42.3%	21 14.5%	3 9.1%	4 8.5%	12 14.8%	15 16.7%	20 17.7%	3 25.0%	3 16.7%	125 17.8%	74 25.5%
Less likely to use it	704 70.9%	9 17.3%	1 8.3%	9 39.1%	15 48.4%	37 47.4%	120 82.8%	30 90.9%	41 87.2%	68 84.0%	72 80.0%	90 79.6%	7 58.3%	14 77.8%	527 75.2%	176 60.7%
No Response	16					1		1	1	1	2				10	

Q.4, If the Main Library moved to Alewife would you be:

By Banner 1

	NEIGHBORHOOD														VISITED LAST 12 MOS	
	Total	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Yes	No
Total	985 100.0%	51 100.0%	12 100.0%	23 100.0%	31 100.0%	78 100.0%	142 100.0%	34 100.0%	47 100.0%	78 100.0%	89 100.0%	112 100.0%	12 100.0%	17 100.0%	695 100.0%	289 100.0%
More likely	206 20.9%			2 8.7%	2 6.5%	1 1.3%	3 2.1%		2 4.3%	21 26.9%	24 27.0%	74 66.1%	9 75.0%	12 70.6%	119 17.1%	87 30.1%
About the same	128 13.0%	2 3.9%	1 8.3%	1 4.3%	2 6.5%	6 7.7%	4 2.8%	1 2.9%	7 14.9%	25 32.1%	24 27.0%	23 20.5%	1 8.3%	1 5.9%	89 12.8%	39 13.5%
Less likely to use it	651 66.1%	49 96.1%	11 91.7%	20 87.0%	27 87.1%	71 91.0%	135 95.1%	33 97.1%	38 80.9%	32 41.0%	41 46.1%	15 13.4%	2 16.7%	4 23.5%	487 70.1%	163 56.4%
No Response	24	1				1	3		1	4	3	1		1	16	1

Q.5, How would you get to the Main Library on Broadway?

By Banner 1

	NEIGHBORHOOD													VISITED LAST 12 MOS		
	Total	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Yes	No
Total	981 100.0%	50 100.0%	12 100.0%	23 100.0%	31 100.0%	77 100.0%	144 100.0%	32 100.0%	47 100.0%	79 100.0%	89 100.0%	109 100.0%	12 100.0%	17 100.0%	700 100.0%	281 100.0%
Walk/bike	600 61.2%	15 30.0%	9 75.0%	17 73.9%	25 80.6%	43 55.8%	136 94.4%	26 81.3%	34 72.3%	42 53.2%	51 57.3%	41 37.6%	3 25.0%	5 29.4%	461 65.9%	139 49.5%
Car	506 51.6%	32 64.0%	4 33.3%	9 39.1%	15 48.4%	39 50.6%	33 22.9%	9 28.1%	22 46.8%	59 74.7%	54 60.7%	74 67.9%	10 83.3%	12 70.6%	369 52.7%	137 48.8%
Bus/subway	145 14.8%	19 38.0%	1 8.3%	3 13.0%	4 12.9%	8 10.4%	4 2.8%	1 3.1%	4 8.5%	11 13.9%	9 10.1%	31 28.4%	6 50.0%	2 11.8%	94 13.4%	51 18.1%
No Response	28	2				2	1	2	1	3	3	4		1	11	9

## Q.6, How would you get to the Main Library in Central Square?

By Banner 1

	NEIGHBORHOOD														VISITED LAST 12 MOS	
	Total	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Yes	No
Total	951 100.0%	48 100.0%	12 100.0%	22 100.0%	30 100.0%	77 100.0%	140 100.0%	34 100.0%	41 100.0%	78 100.0%	89 100.0%	104 100.0%	10 100.0%	16 100.0%	672 100.0%	278 100.0%
Walk/bike	441 46.4%	17 35.4%	10 83.3%	14 63.6%	26 86.7%	72 93.5%	91 65.0%	32 94.1%	13 31.7%	13 16.7%	19 21.3%	15 14.4%	1 10.0%	3 18.8%	301 44.8%	139 50.0%
Car	357 37.5%	22 45.8%	2 16.7%	9 40.9%	4 13.3%	9 11.7%	39 27.9%	1 2.9%	19 46.3%	45 57.7%	46 51.7%	52 50.0%	6 60.0%	10 62.5%	274 40.8%	83 29.9%
Bus/subway	307 32.3%	16 33.3%	3 25.0%	3 13.6%	2 6.7%	1 1.3%	32 22.9%	4 11.8%	16 39.0%	41 52.6%	42 47.2%	58 55.8%	7 70.0%	5 31.3%	213 31.7%	94 33.8%
No Response	58	4		1	1	2	5		7	4	3	9	2	2	39	12

## Q.7, How would you get to the Main Library in Kendall Square?

By Banner 1

	NEIGHBORHOOD													VISITED LAST 12 MOS		
	Total	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Yes	No
Total	931 100.0%	50 100.0%	12 100.0%	22 100.0%	30 100.0%	76 100.0%	135 100.0%	31 100.0%	43 100.0%	72 100.0%	88 100.0%	99 100.0%	10 100.0%	16 100.0%	656 100.0%	274 100.0%
Walk/bike	180 19.3%	37 74.0%	12 100.0%	12 54.5%	13 43.3%	18 23.7%	18 13.3%	4 12.9%	1 2.3%	4 5.6%	4 4.5%	12 12.1%	1 10.0%	2 12.5%	121 18.4%	58 21.2%
Car	477 51.2%	13 26.0%	1 8.3%	8 36.4%	13 43.3%	36 47.4%	70 51.9%	13 41.9%	23 53.5%	49 68.1%	56 63.6%	54 54.5%	6 60.0%	11 68.8%	357 54.4%	119 43.4%
Bus/subway	399 42.9%	4 8.0%	1 8.3%	6 27.3%	11 36.7%	30 39.5%	66 48.9%	18 58.1%	23 53.5%	31 43.1%	40 45.5%	47 47.5%	6 60.0%	6 37.5%	272 41.5%	127 46.4%
No Response	78	2		1	1	3	10	3	5	10	4	14	2	2	55	16

Q.8, How would you get to the Main Library in Alewife?

By Banner 1

	Total	NEIGHBORHOOD													VISITED LAST 12 MOS		
		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Yes	No	
Total	924 100.0%	44 100.0%	12 100.0%	20 100.0%	30 100.0%	68 100.0%	131 100.0%	33 100.0%	42 100.0%	75 100.0%	90 100.0%	108 100.0%	12 100.0%	16 100.0%	649 100.0%	275 100.0%	
Walk/bike	179 19.4%			1 5.0%		3 4.4%	3 2.3%	1 3.0%			23 30.7%	18 20.0%	66 61.1%	5 41.7%	5 31.3%	122 18.8%	57 20.7%
Car	544 58.9%	29 65.9%	6 50.0%	14 70.0%	19 63.3%	40 58.8%	87 66.4%	16 48.5%	24 57.1%	49 65.3%	64 71.1%	40 37.0%	9 75.0%	11 68.8%	404 62.2%	140 50.9%	
Bus/subway	353 38.2%	20 45.5%	8 66.7%	10 50.0%	15 50.0%	35 51.5%	57 43.5%	21 63.6%	21 50.0%	18 24.0%	22 24.4%	21 19.4%	4 33.3%	2 12.5%	238 36.7%	115 41.8%	
No Response	85	8		3	1	11	14	1	6	7	2	5		2	62	15	

Q.9, Please circle the number of the location you prefer for the Main Library:

By Banner 1

	NEIGHBORHOOD													VISITED LAST 12 MOS		
	Total	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Yes	No
Total	981 100.0%	51 100.0%	12 100.0%	23 100.0%	31 100.0%	77 100.0%	142 100.0%	34 100.0%	46 100.0%	79 100.0%	91 100.0%	112 100.0%	11 100.0%	17 100.0%	696 100.0%	281 100.0%
Current Main Library site on Broadway	598 61.0%	22 43.1%	2 16.7%	15 65.2%	12 38.7%	27 35.1%	116 81.7%	14 41.2%	39 84.8%	64 81.0%	61 67.0%	51 45.5%	4 36.4%	8 47.1%	503 72.3%	95 33.8%
Central Square	269 27.4%	5 9.8%	7 58.3%	7 30.4%	16 51.6%	54 70.1%	39 27.5%	25 73.5%	6 13.0%	8 10.1%	14 15.4%	12 10.7%	2 18.2%	2 11.8%	170 24.4%	98 34.9%
Kendall Square	84 8.6%	31 60.8%	5 41.7%	6 26.1%	5 16.1%	4 5.2%	6 4.2%	1 2.9%	1 2.2%	2 2.5%	4 4.4%	3 2.7%	2 18.2%	1 5.9%	51 7.3%	32 11.4%
Alewife	149 15.2%			1 4.3%	1 3.2%	1 1.3%	2 1.4%	1 2.9%	5 10.9%	11 13.9%	16 17.6%	57 50.9%	7 63.6%	7 41.2%	87 12.5%	61 21.7%
No Preference	47 4.8%	1 2.0%			3 9.7%	3 3.9%	4 2.8%			7 8.9%	7 7.7%	6 5.4%		1 5.9%	18 2.6%	28 10.0%
No Response	28	1				2	3		2	3	1	1	1	1	15	9

Comments

By Banner 1

	Total	NEIGHBORHOOD													VISITED LAST 12 MOS	
		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Yes	No
Total	259 100.0%	15 100.0%	1 100.0%	8 100.0%	11 100.0%	24 100.0%	56 100.0%	10 100.0%	12 100.0%	32 100.0%	24 100.0%	33 100.0%	4 100.0%	5 100.0%	206 100.0%	52 100.0%
Leave/keep/I like/I prefer the Main Lib. where it is	70 27.0%	3 20.0%		3 37.5%	4 36.4%	3 12.5%	20 35.7%		5 41.7%	13 40.6%	3 12.5%	9 27.3%		1 20.0%	59 28.6%	11 21.2%
Bdway needs more prkg/ build prkg garage/ basement	19 7.3%	2 13.3%		1 9.1%			5 8.9%		1 8.3%	3 9.4%		5 15.2%			18 8.7%	1 1.9%
Bdway is convenient/ central to city/access to public trans.	43 16.6%	3 20.0%		1 12.5%	2 18.2%	2 8.3%	12 21.4%		2 16.7%	9 28.1%	5 20.8%	3 9.1%		2 40.0%	38 18.4%	5 9.6%
Bdway is next to high school	33 12.7%	3 20.0%		2 25.0%		2 8.3%	12 21.4%	1 10.0%	2 16.7%	6 18.8%	2 8.3%	1 3.0%	1 25.0%		30 14.6%	3 5.8%
Bdway has less traffic/ congest./crime/is safer/ quieter	11 4.2%	1 6.7%		1 12.5%	1 9.1%	1 4.2%	3 5.4%			1 3.1%	2 8.3%				11 5.3%	
Preserve landmark/ history/beauty/character of Bdway	16 6.2%					1 4.2%	4 7.1%	1 10.0%	1 8.3%	4 12.5%	1 4.2%	2 6.1%			14 6.8%	2 3.8%
Renovate/add to/expand Bdway, use park/prkg lot	31 12.0%	1 6.7%		2 25.0%	2 18.2%	2 8.3%	9 16.1%	1 10.0%	1 8.3%	4 12.5%	3 12.5%	2 6.1%		2 40.0%	25 12.1%	6 11.5%
Keep Bdway as a branch if Main Lib. moves?	4 1.5%						1 1.8%	1 10.0%			2 6.3%				4 1.9%	
Improve branches instead of/as well as Main Lib.	5 1.9%					1 4.2%	1 1.8%					1 3.0%		2 40.0%	3 1.5%	2 3.8%
Main Lib. should be convenient to public transport.	13 5.0%			1 12.5%			2 3.6%	1 10.0%	1 8.3%	2 6.3%		3 9.1%	1 25.0%	1 20.0%	10 4.9%	3 5.8%
Main Lib. should have more/improved prkg.	22 8.5%	1 6.7%				3 12.5%	2 3.6%	1 10.0%		6 18.8%	1 4.2%	5 15.2%		1 20.0%	19 9.2%	3 5.8%
Main Lib. should be centrally located	5 1.9%			1 12.5%			1 1.8%		1 8.3%			1 3.0%		1 20.0%	5 2.4%	

## Comments

By Banner 1

	Total	NEIGHBORHOOD													VISITED LAST 12 MOS	
		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Yes	No
Main Lib. should be in a residential neighborhood	2 0.8%			1 12.5%							1 4.2%				2 1.0%	
Main Lib. should be near H.S./easily access. to schools	5 1.9%				2 18.2%				2 6.3%			1 3.0%			5 2.4%	
Keep open/green space as/more imp. than bldg./expanding	18 6.9%	1 6.7%		1 12.5%	2 18.2%	2 8.3%	7 12.5%		1 8.3%	1 3.1%	2 8.3%				17 8.3%	1 1.9%
Update/upgrade/renovation long overdue	8 3.1%			1 12.5%		1 4.2%				3 9.4%	1 4.2%	2 6.1%			7 3.4%	1 1.9%
Negative comments on library in general	5 1.9%	1 6.7%				1 4.2%	1 1.8%				1 4.2%	1 3.0%			4 1.9%	1 1.9%
Pos. comments on library/suggestions for prog./svcs.	17 6.6%			1 12.5%	1 9.1%	2 8.3%	3 5.4%		2 16.7%		1 4.2%	2 6.1%	1 25.0%	1 20.0%	13 6.3%	4 7.7%
Financial/political concerns/comments	7 2.7%	2 13.3%		1 12.5%			1 1.8%				1 4.2%				5 2.4%	1 1.9%
I use another Cambridge library (not the Main Lib.)	6 2.3%					1 4.2%		1 10.0%			1 4.2%	2 6.1%			2 1.0%	4 7.7%
I use another public library (outside Cambridge)	9 3.5%								1 8.3%	1 3.1%		5 15.2%	1 25.0%		2 1.0%	7 13.5%
I use a school/college/university library	5 1.9%									1 3.1%	1 4.2%	3 9.1%			1 0.5%	4 7.7%
I would prefer walking or driving to the library	8 3.1%					1 4.2%					5 15.6%	1 4.2%	1 3.0%		7 3.4%	1 1.9%
(Reasons why) Central Sq. is a good choice	39 15.1%			1 12.5%	5 45.5%	8 33.3%	12 21.4%	2 20.0%	1 8.3%		3 12.5%	4 12.1%	1 25.0%		27 13.1%	12 23.1%
(Reasons why) Central Sq. is a poor choice	16 6.2%	2 13.3%		1 12.5%	1 9.1%	3 12.5%	2 3.6%		1 8.3%		2 8.3%	1 3.0%			15 7.3%	1 1.9%

Comments

By Banner 1

	Total	NEIGHBORHOOD													VISITED LAST 12 MOS	
		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Yes	No
(Reasons why) Alewife is a good choice	9 3.5%						1 1.8%				1 4.2%	6 18.2%	1 25.0%		5 2.4%	4 7.7%
(Reasons why) Alewife is a poor choice	13 5.0%	1 6.7%			1 9.1%	1 4.2%	2 3.6%	2 20.0%			2 8.3%	1 3.0%			11 5.3%	2 3.8%
(Reasons why) Kendall Sq. is a good choice	12 4.6%	2 13.3%		1 12.5%	1 9.1%	2 8.3%	2 3.6%				1 4.2%		1 25.0%		10 4.9%	2 3.8%
(Reasons why) Kendall Sq. is a poor choice	9 3.5%			1 9.1%			1 1.8%		1 8.3%	2 6.3%	1 4.2%	2 6.1%			9 4.4%	
Comment on/criticism of this survey	6 2.3%						1 1.8%	1 10.0%	1 8.3%		1 4.2%				6 2.9%	
Other	27 10.4%	2 13.3%	1 100.0%		1 9.1%	3 12.5%	3 5.4%	3 30.0%		3 9.4%	4 16.7%	6 18.2%			21 10.2%	6 11.5%
No Response	750	37	11	15	20	55	89	24	36	50	68	80	8	13	505	238

Please select the neighborhood where you live on this map.

By Banner 1

	NEIGHBORHOOD													VISITED LAST 12 MOS			
	Total	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Yes	No	
Total	743 100.0%	52 100.0%	12 100.0%	23 100.0%	31 100.0%	79 100.0%	145 100.0%	34 100.0%	48 100.0%	82 100.0%	92 100.0%	113 100.0%	12 100.0%	18 100.0%	532 100.0%	208 100.0%	
01	52 7.0%	52 100.0%													33 6.2%	18 8.7%	
02	12 1.6%		12 100.0%												7 1.3%	5 2.4%	
03	23 3.1%			23 100.0%											16 3.0%	7 3.4%	
04	31 4.2%				31 100.0%										19 3.6%	12 5.8%	
05	79 10.6%					79 100.0%									52 9.8%	27 13.0%	
06	145 19.5%						145 100.0%								129 24.2%	16 7.7%	
07	34 4.6%							34 100.0%							22 4.1%	11 5.3%	
08	48 6.5%								48 100.0%						39 7.3%	8 3.8%	
09	82 11.0%									82 100.0%					66 12.4%	16 7.7%	
10	92 12.4%										92 100.0%				68 12.8%	24 11.5%	
11	113 15.2%											113 100.0%			64 12.0%	49 23.6%	
12	12 1.6%												12 100.0%		7 1.3%	5 2.4%	
13	18 2.4%														18 100.0%	8 1.5%	10 4.8%
No Response	266														179	82	

## *Cambridge Public Library Survey: Comments*

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Comment</i>
01	I suggest that you leave it where it is. Easy access for the High School and Harvard students.
01	Good luck trying to get the new library built. The Community Development Dept., Planning Board, and the City Manager won't listen to you. Using existing buildings for the library would be nice. We have enough buildings in East Cambridge, we're fighting for open space and a library down here. All of Cambridge needs to help you.
01	Since it will inconvenience some people from all neighborhoods, why not leave it in its present location?
01	Parking in Central Square is horrendous. Putting the library there would only make the congestion worse.
01	I visit the library at least once every 7 to 8 days. I feel safe going there although there should be more parking, as I can't walk too far.
01	Parking is a key issue. If the library is located in Central Sq., parking would most likely be limited, if available at all. I know that would affect my usage of the library.
01	We support the Kendall Square location. It would be great - the transportation will be fine!
01	The biggest problem with the current location is the lack of parking and difficulty of using public transportation.
01	Kendall Square would be a great location - academic, residential, "tech" central, LAND and near the river! (Potentially a beautiful site, i.e. where that ugly parking lot is near the T stop.)
01	I think Harvard is easy to get to from everywhere in Cambridge, Alewife is the toughest.
01	I feel that the current location is a perfect one because of the fact that it is located in the center of the city making it more convenient for people to get to. I also feel that the city would save a lot more money by expanding than it would if you started building from scratch. Your numbers show that the use of the library has doubled over the years in the spot that it is in now, so why move it! The current location also makes it more convenient for the high school students. By moving the site I feel that there would be a great decline in high school aged children using or even being seen in the library. Why take an educational need away from the city's future?
01	Please keep in mind people that are handicapped and can not go a long distance.
02	Two libraries. Perhaps more.

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Comment</i>
03	In my opinion, the Main Library ought to occupy a central position in a residential neighborhood. This would rule out Kendall Square and Alewife (which seems the worst possible choice). I much prefer the present location: it is convenient to many people including the Rindge and Latin School and is also a very attractive site. Central Square is a less pleasant but possible alternative.
03	Leave well enough alone.
03	Cambridge so desperately needs updated library facilities that I would visit the new library no matter where it is located. Unless you have plans to significantly increase parking spaces, it has to be convenient to public transportation. I like the Broadway location because it is less congested. Can't you take some of what I fondly call "Dog Doo Park?"
03	Central Square is walking distance but I still don't feel safe there. I use Valient Library but if Kendall Square had an improved one I would use that.
03	Develop the main library where it is, with as little impact as possible on the surrounding open space. It is an asset to the high school.
03	Keep the library on Broadway. Expand the current library.
04	I think the Main Library should remain at its current site with expansion. If need to relocate, Kendall Square would be most appropriate considering its new, upcoming technology of businesses.
04	While I strongly support Central Square as a logical and desirable location for the CPL, I do want to urge planners not to supplant the YMCA in order to locate it there - this would mean destroying one integral, crucial social service point in order to relocate another.
04	Prefer that the main library stay where it is in the old building. It has lots of character and is inviting - with the parking lot, it's very convenient for stops while doing errands or while kids are at the war mem. The grass around the library and park for children is also appealing. I would not like to see a completely new bldg. for the library.
04	I think keeping the park in mid-Cambridge and moving the main branch to Central Sq. would be good for the city. I think the main goal of the library is that it be accessible. I think that city records ought to be near city hall. I think placing the library where it is only accessible by car limits kids and send the wrong message.
04	Strong support for moving the library to Central Square. Thank you.
04	I think mid-Cambridge (that would include Central Square) within walking distance of the high school would be a good location for the main branch. Kendall Square is convenient for me, but like Alewife, it's way on the end of town for most people. If the library expands on its current site, I hope it would not be into the large park. Maybe it could be built into the parking lot with below-ground parking? Also, I hope the architecture would be reminiscent of the old building and not a big blank building.

*Neighborhood*

*Comment*

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- 04 Please renovate this beautiful old building!! Its beauty is something wonderful to pass on to our children. I understand it has to be expanded, definitely! The Alewife area is unsafe at night, especially for older people and women! I have taken classes in this area at night. The Kendall Square area is too isolated at night. Neither Kendall nor Alewife areas have decent bus service! Especially Kendall. This would make it very difficult for old and poor people to use this library as well as women and the disabled. All the people who need libraries most!! We're not even talking about kids, yet. I would never let a kid of mine go into the Kendall and Alewife areas at night, alone!! Also, the Main Branch is centrally located next to the High School. What better access for students!!
  
- 04 We like the "campus" and park-ish atmosphere at the B-way site. The building is architecturally interesting. Central Sq. is a good 2nd choice because it is accessible to a greater and more diverse prospective clientele. Thanks for asking!
  
- 04 I would not feel as safe if the library were to move to Central Square. Plus, frankly, I think there would be issues with undesirable clientele or "members" in Central Square and that would make me feel uncomfortable, i.e. more solicitors of an unwanted nature. Also, please install more computers which are on-line.
  
- 04 Central Sq. would be a great location since it is on the bus line, also near the senior center, near coffee shops and restaurants, and market (Coop). There would be no walking from the bus stop. Great in the winter time! Hope it is on Mass Ave. near City Hall. Where it is now, it is quite a long walk from the bus stop.
  
- 04 Central Sq. (and Kendall too) happens to be convenient for me, but I prefer the main library site - because of the setting and the central location for all of the people in Cambridge. The current main library seems easily accessible to all and "neutral" enough that one neighborhood or another can not feel left out by its location.
  
- 05 Spend a great deal of time in Harvard/Porter areas so it's convenient in its current location.
  
- 05 Please put the library in Central Sq. - we need to have something besides restaurants in the Sq.
  
- 05 I feel the idea of moving the library to Central Sq., in a new building, is a great one. This will provide a centrally located facility on a major public transportation route. More people will have the chance to use the library. Central Sq. #1!
  
- 05 Please wake up to the fact that engaging young readers is more important than pleasing the rest of us!
  
- 05 We are a household of four who all frequent the Central Square branch library and would greatly appreciate an expanded facility in Central Square. We strongly wish, however, that this new facility would incorporate the special features that the Central Square branch has. These include: 1. An unusual and unparalleled commitment to meeting the needs of neighborhood kids - the Central Sq. library has extensive programs and activities and its librarians are tuned-in, creative, and helpful above and beyond the call of duty; 2. An excellent Black Studies section, rivaling the holdings of the BPL as well as extensive and easy-to-access collections representing other cultures, with a focus on art, literature, film, and music.
  
- 05 Have not used the library very much. Will use it much more when I have children. I love public libraries!

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Comment</i>
05	Has any consideration been given to bury the library as was done at Harvard? In other words, go down instead of up.
05	These questions are almost impossible to answer without knowing what parking could be available at various locations. Proximity to one's neighborhood is only one variable; parking is certainly another.
05	As an elderly retired person I would love to be able to walk to the main library in the Central Square location which is about 3 blocks from my home.
05	It is about time for a new main library. The current one is small, dirty, and poorly stocked. It is truly amazing that a city like Cambridge, which is so large and academically rich, would have such an inadequate public library system.
05	Alewife is the most difficult to get to. Central Sq. is clearly my preference for the locale of the new library. Thanks.
05	I think the library should stay in its current location. I think it would be good to have the library in Central Square - but it would be bad for Central Sq. to lose anymore small shops/blocks. Central Sq. is being destroyed by development. I would support library in Central Square if it could move into either City Foods location (old Purity) or into Holmes Dev't on corner, and not be a tall building that changes the low feel of C. Square. I'd love it if City took Holmes Block and built a beautiful civic space - library/courtyard etc. That would be so much better than luxury dev't and chain stores planned for that spot.
05	If you don't move main library to Central Square, at least try to clean up the squalid condition of the Central Square branch. It is too depressing to use.
05	The library should not displace existing entities such as a 7-11 or a post office that is used by and more important to a greater number of people than a library would ever be!
05	I use the library every week - children's rooms (esp. Cent. and Main) at various branches. I work in the Fitzgerald so I use that one (next year and following years our program won't be there so I won't use that one at all). Please be considerate of those, not necessarily handicapped, but perhaps slowed by arthritis and/or other illnesses or effects of aging. I come by car because I often have to get around that way. (I used to walk to both Cent. Sq. and Main from Camb'port.)
05	The current library building is a beautiful asset to the city and the proximity to the high school makes sense.
05	I see no reason for moving the site, unless being near the Red Line is an issue for many people.
05	Parking is very important. I find the current location very attractive and convenient.
05	I have a strong preference for Central Square, not just for my own convenience but because it best serves the eastern half of the city who are unlikely to go to West Cambridge or North Cambridge and transportation to Central Sq. is excellent. Don't make trade-off of institutions. We need YMCA and post office too.

***Neighborhood***

***Comment***

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- 05 Strong consideration should be given to the benefit of having the Main Library next to CRLS. This is not only a resource for the high school but also creates a comfort in using the facilities that is important for future use.
- 05 With the current revamping of Central Square - higher rents, commercialization by big companies, taking over of small business - Central Square could use the wonderful community resource the library provides. (Parking would be an issue, however - and if it means using currently open space for parking, I'd rather see it stay where it is.) Alewife and Kendall just seem too far out from most of the activity of pedestrians.
- 05 I have heard of the plan to move the main branch to Central Sq. and expand services and space. I would hate to see the current building used for a purpose other than the library but understand the limitations of expanding on the current site. The loss of open space would be a grievous blow that neighborhood doesn't need. I have not seen any plans for what a new building would look like, but have heard that the current site of 7-11 is under consideration. I would like to see a new library incorporate space where public meetings and performances could be incorporated as well, as this aspect seems under-served by current facilities to me.
- 05 I would favor an expansion of the Main Library building on its existing site if this would lead to a significant expansion, one to last for many years to come. I love this site but I am afraid that by the time the expansion is planned and completed, it will already be out of date.  
My next choice is to have a new library in Central Square. However, I prefer those sites that do not displace existing businesses. I would favor two of the sites mentioned by the consultants: the Prospect Street site or the site of the existing Post Office. I believe it was mentioned that the Post Office was interested in moving to another site.  
If these sites are not feasible, I would then accept Kendall Square, although it would not be as convenient. There seems to be much more open space in this area and a nice facility could be built there. Perhaps a library development could be linked to new shops, etc.
- 05 I think Kendall Sq. is better. Central Sq. already has a branch and I hear the plans are to tear down a whole row of buildings with small businesses in them on Mass Ave. We need to keep these here, not have a "mega" building. Putting it in Kendall on some of the open land there now mis-used for parking lots would be better, plus Kendall needs some humanization by having some non-business use there and maybe combine the new library with a new park or other open space. Don't tear down any old buildings please.
- 05 Central Square is a more diverse neighborhood than mid-Camb./Harv. Sq. I think the library would get broader usage. It's also more accessible by a variety of bus/subway options. Proximity to City Hall makes it feel more fitting for the Main branch. Also so many elementary schools in the area.
- 06 As it stands now, the Main Library is difficult to access by the T. If it were anywhere close to a subway, rather than a bus, it would be easy to get to. I would walk to Central Sq., or take the train to Kendall or Alewife, before I'd think about getting a bus to Broadway or Cambridge St.
- 06 I hope the library stays where it is - not just for my sake, but for the High School's sake.

*Neighborhood*

*Comment*

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- 06 Although the current main library is not on a subway route or right on a subway stop, it is excellently sited because it is right next to the High School, thereby creating a logical educational complex in a central Cambridge location. Wonderful, especially for the students. I suggest small "storefront" libraries at the other locations, linked by computer with the main library, where local residents (of those neighborhoods) could scan the catalog, by computer, order what they want, and have it delivered to the little branch library from the Main Branch (a small jeep/truck delivery daily?). This might well remove the obstacles to library use by the infirm or those of limited mobility while still preserving the great advantages - especially to students of limited means - of having a library right next to the school they attend every day. The "storefront libraries" could have some basic books - current best sellers, etc., some reference books, and of course, a thorough selection of journals and periodicals. One might add that having the present set-up, a library-school complex, offers great opportunities for further use of the school buildings evenings and weekends for adult education programs, etc.
  
- 06 I think moving the library to Central Sq. would provide better access for more people in Cambridge. I also want to preserve the park at the current location, especially the beech trees!
  
- 06 Enjoy library in area it is now located.
  
- 06 Keep near Cambridge Rindge & Latin, to remind and help high school students.
  
- 06 The current library is very convenient for us.
  
- 06 Current library building is so charming, please keep it where it is.
  
- 06 Please keep the main library site on Broadway:  
It is in a central location.  
It is physically attractive.  
It has historical recognition.  
It is the best place to develop a larger main library.
  
- 06 I think the site on Prospect would be good because there are not any shops there that would have to be displaced. I think the existing Main Library site is good because maybe it would encourage more use by the high school students next door.
  
- 06 I love the "quaintness" of the Broadway location, it is somewhat out of the way of busy car/bus activity.
  
- 06 It makes no sense whatever to sacrifice that beautiful, neo-Romanesque building right near the large high school and handily reached by bus from all points in Cambridge and within easy walking distance from most points in central Cambridge.
  
- 06 I am a regular library user. Even though Central is farther from my home, I prefer this to taking more park space at Broadway location.
  
- 06 I prefer present site because it is in my neighborhood. Kendall Sq. is a very sterile place! Central is a fairly convenient place for me. How would the library there affect that neighborhood? Also, is it important to have it near the high school, as it is now?

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Comment</i>
06	Please do not build on the green park space by the library. If you expand in current location, please build up not out. Otherwise maybe Central Square is a better place.
06	I have from the beginning of the discussions preferred an addition to the Main Library.
06	There must be room at High School for extra materials and books. Transfer unnecessary works from Main Library to other building - tapes and music. Should be kept near High School.
06	I am very opposed to a move from the present location. For most of the people I know in my locale or otherwise, the walk to the library is part of the charm. Then, too, I have always admired the library's proximity to the high school. What a wonderful location for the students!!
06	Wherever the main branch is, I would want it to have at least as much free parking as it does now. The Central Sq. branch does not have very convenient parking.
06	I would like the library to be located in Kendall Square. It will be easily accessible by public transportation. If you come by car, parking is not as difficult as in Central Square. Traffic is more controlled and children do not have to cross big streets where to understand the traffic you have to guess as in Central Sq. Still Central Sq. will be my second choice because of the accessibility by public transportation.
06	My biggest fear is that open space will be used to build a new library. I very much oppose this - it's getting much too crowded already in Cambridge. The only way I'd support a new building where the old library is on Broadway is if you tore it down and built one in its place. Also, Alewife is a crazy location for a city library - the traffic to get there is horrible and it's at the edge of the city, not the middle.
06	I think it's great that you've secured the funding for an expansion. Tax dollars well spent!
06	You should expand the library underground - even with a major structure extending into the front grounds with an atrium for lighting - you could preserve the architectural integrity of the current historic building. Take a lesson from the Smithsonian, Cornell University, the Louvre in Paris, Harvard University and other major institutions - this is an ideal way to preserve a campus-like quality but expand for parking and working space, the library is in the perfect location now and should remain there!
06	We enjoy using the library on Broadway about once every other weekend and some weeknights in the summer. Staff is always friendly. We have sometimes found the "quiet" reading room a little on the noisy side.
06	I have been a loyal library patron for the last 23 years. I love the beautiful building and excellent location of the Broadway Street location, Please, please, please don't change this. And if you do, please don't move out to Alewife - the great thing now is that the library is so central.
06	Main library should be near the geographical "center" of the city (or the "population gravity center"). It is unwise to place the main library at extreme of city limit. You want people to come to the library so it should be close to where people are. Not just people who come to use it but more importantly people who "may" come to use it. We want to encourage people, especially children, to use the library. It should be located centrally in the city. If there is a better location than the existing main library and still near the geographical center of the town, that's OK.

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Comment</i>
06	Please keep the library where it is! It's next to the high school and is in a beautiful historic building. Couldn't you make underground parking and expand it over the current parking lot???
06	We are very excited about expansion of the Main Library either on Broadway or in Central Square. However, we feel very strongly about maintaining the open space around the Library on Broadway and would only support expansion of that location if the open space remained.
06	I favor expanding and modernizing the current library - surely there are ways to work around the objections.
06	I hope that the library will remain where it is now.
06	I think the main library should remain where it is - near the high school and in the "middle" of Cambridge. Central Square is congested and less safe for children on their own; Alewife is simply far away from everything and everyone. I would fight hard against any decision that would put the heart of our library system on the outskirts of our city.
06	This survey was poorly constructed. Please do a better job next time. For example - #9. "the number of the location"? The current Main Library site on Broadway should be kept. It is also convenient for the high school students, teachers, and staff. Central Square, Kendall Square, and Porter Square due to traffic, petty crimes, and etc. is a terrible place to plan to build the Main Library.
06	I love the building the library is now in, but Central Square is much more convenient for me.
06	It depends on what would have to be done to the current H.H. Richardson building to accommodate expansion of services. If the choice is to build on front of the current library building in the park area facing Broadway, or to in any way detract from the current building, I would prefer a new site be selected for the library, and that the current historical building and grounds be used for some other purpose. The current library is a beautiful and historic building and shouldn't be screwed up.
06	I favor keeping the Main Library on Broadway not only because I live nearby (I could get to a Central Square location fairly easily), but primarily because it's in a beautiful building in a lovely park and it's such a pleasure just to get to the library. It would be a pity to lose one of the most pleasurable destinations to get to in Cambridge.
06	Parking is always an issue. At the current site there is no parking available so I don't use it as much as I should. Central Sq. is okay if there is a garage and plenty of parking sites non-metered avail.
06	Expand library and have much more parking. Move the library into more computer-driven age. Teach older people how to connect with internet, etc. I really appreciate medical info available on computer but need internet, too. A new age is nearly here!
06	I currently live right near the library. I think it's a good library but I don't have much need for it. It's great that it's expanding. If there's not sufficient room at its present site, Central Square seems to be the ideal site since the town hall and police station are there and it is easy for everyone to get there.

***Neighborhood***      ***Comment***

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- 06      As checked on the other side, I prefer the current location. However, if the mature beech tree were to be cut down for the expansion, I would prefer the library move to another location, preferably Central Square. Also, I hope that if the current library is expanded, the addition will blend well architecturally with the original.
- 06      Central Square or where the Main Branch is now would be fine.
- 06      I enjoy the current location of the library because it is in a safe, residential area and I feel comfortable going during any of its posted opening hours. The parking can be tight at times but I have found that if you wait a few moments a spot usually opens. The traffic is congested at the rush hour only. It's very easy to cross in front of and near the library. The surrounding school, gym, playground and park make it an exciting, active area where people are always out and about. Because the buildings are nearby they're usually lit with something going on. I usually find what I'm looking for, and if and when I don't, the staff can usually get it for me in a very short turn-around time. I think it's a definite asset having it located next to the public city high school because both parties stand to win.
- 06      I like the library where it is - it should remain there. It is convenient and very pleasant.
- 06      Take back property from high school. Move high school elsewhere. Raise salaries of librarians.
- 06      The present location of the Main Library is by far the best. It is centrally located in the city. There is plenty of public transportation. It is next to the High School. It is relatively quiet. Also it is a beautiful setting - with trees, bushes, benches, children's play area. There is plenty of room to renovate and add all the required room, and still leave park area around.
- 06      Please fix it up and leave it where it is.
- 06      Location close to high school is extremely important!!
- 06      Prefer expansion of existing library. No particular objection to a Kendall site. I don't think Central Square is practical for the library or its patrons.
- 06      IF library moves, parking is important factor. Alewife may have it.
- 06      I am handicapped and almost blind. Without the library all I would have is radio. Don't do this to me.
- 06      I'm glad the library is getting an update. My 1st choice is to keep it where it is.
- 06      I think the present library is in a wonderful location. Close to the High School makes it useful for the young people there and being centrally located it is very easy for a lot of people to get to. Another separate library in Kendall Square should be considered as well.
- 06      I love the present library site but Central Square would be equally, perhaps even more, convenient.

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Comment</i>
06	The current library is a beautiful building, clearly designed to be the library. It is a joy to visit. It could be expanded and still leave a good amount of green space nearby. The location is very convenient (for me, at least!) and Central Sq. already has a branch. Please leave the library where it is!
06	Very pleased with Main Library as presently located.
06	If the city is going to build a new library, it should be built in Central Square for every library location criteria I can think of. The current library on Broadway should be maintained as a branch library.
06	I think the Main Library should remain at the same location, old or new, at 449 Broadway.
07	The library building on Broadway has a wonderful monumentality and civic grandeur to it - it would be a shame to lose it. Expanding the current library seems to be a better option than starting from scratch. If a new library must be built, its design should reflect the civic nature of the building and the central importance of scholarship to the community. Certainly, the new building (if any) should NOT be placed at the outer reaches of Alewife, an area that is on the periphery of our community and exceedingly hostile to pedestrians.
07	I just moved to Cambridge. I plan to visit the library soon. Good luck on your new project. Libraries are indispensable!
07	Central Sq. seems like an ideal location since both the Mass Ave. bus and the red line stop there. The Mass Ave. bus and other busses frequently pick up commuters going in town to work. This is also true for MBTA commuters. It would seem that more people would use the library if it was already on their route rather than go several stops beyond their route to make a switch to another line or bus.
07	Thanks for doing this! I would be strongly against an Alewife or Kendall location because they are at the extremes of Cambridge.
07	Poor Bill Roun must be disappointed that his design is being jettisoned!
07	I have 2 young children and we visit the Central Square branch now. The main library now is not accessible by T so we don't go there. It would be great to have it in Central Square so we could walk.
07	What about the high school use? Would Broadway Library stay in its location if the Main Library were at Central Square?
07	How I would get to Kendall or Alewife (car/subway) would depend on how much parking there was available and how close the library was to the subway.
07	Question number 9 does not make sense.
07	Good luck, in siting the main library.

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Comment</i>
08	Maybe we need to keep the present library and add satellites at Central, Kendall and Alewife - at least at Central.
08	I believe a library should be in Central Square. However, the present library bldg. should be kept with no outward changes. It could be used for library offices and perhaps for programs and books for young children. Mothers would have a wonderful park and an early opportunity for parents to promote learning through the easily accessible library. The bldg. is much too beautiful and has such wonderful memories to be altered or changed or Heaven Forbid razed.
08	This survey needs work!
08	I hope the main branch stays where it is.
08	The present library is ideally located - easily accessible to high school students, bus stop and auto parking, however limited, and well removed from stores and commercial activity.
08	Although I prefer the current location, I would rather see the Main Branch moved than destroy the park on B'way.
08	Library should be in a more accessible/urban location so people know where it is. I always go to BPL downtown because it's right on T.
08	The present location is the most convenient for me.
08	The H.H. Richardson Library is great - I realize you need more room though.
08	It's really important to have the main branch of the library next to the high school.
08	We have beautiful building as the current library. It is centrally located. Please continue to use it as core/base of a larger library on roughly the same piece of land.
08	If the main library is to be improved, I think it is important that it be centrally located. Central Sq., despite its name, is nowhere near much of Cambridge. It is not an easy place to drive to because of traffic problems and lack of parking. Unless one lives nearby, or very near public transportation, it is not easily accessible. The same could be said of Kendall Sq. and Alewife.
09	I would like to see the original library renovated rather than torn down - in the interest of preserving older buildings, etc. I normally use the library on Concord Ave. which I like very much.
09	Plenty of parking is essential!

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Comment</i>
09	I like that the library is in a central location in the city. Kendall and Alewife are more out of the way. Central is about the same. It's nice to be able to walk to it easily but also have the option to drive and park. It needs to be within walking distance of a T stop or bus stop so that all Cambridge residents have equal access.
09	I would drive to all locations in cold or wet weather, and walk or bike in warm dry weather.
09	We desperately need a larger library, especially for author events. Best to take all the space necessary at the current site. The needs of the city as a whole greatly outweigh the interests of the immediate neighborhood for keeping the grass intact.
09	I love the old building. It also seems positive to have the library near the high school. Could the new building - in any of the areas - have underground garage where there could be charge of \$.50 or \$1.00 for a stay of 1 hour or less? It also could be monitored in this way. Thanks for your work.
09	Prefer modern addition to existing Main Library. Keep original bldg. and add on towards Cambridge St. - perhaps a very large 2 story basement could add more space and a tall addition above so as to preserve the façade of the bldg. from Broadway view and the park in front. Open space is needed for the public and high school students. Another option is to enlarge both the main library and the Central Square branch.
09	My one concern would be to have adequate parking.
09	Keep the library where it is. Thanks.
09	We like the current site although parking is a problem. Any site with more parking would be appreciated.
09	The library "yard" is quite beautiful. I would hate to see it destroyed. If the main library were moved, could you still keep a branch on Broadway?
09	I think the proximity to the High School is important because their library is poor. The school department could be asked to vacate their building on the other side of High School because they have more options, now that they are seeing school enrollment dwindling and might find space elsewhere. They have less stake and necessity for that site than the library, which is already entrenched and functioning and loved in its present location.
09	I'm a graduate student and have access to many libraries - otherwise I'm sure I'd use the public library more.
09	I think that the Main Library should stay where it is because it is located in the center of the city next to the high school for the students and it also has the beautiful and historic building. I know there is limited space there for parking and there was once a park there which is smaller now, but this is the reason it was put there in the first place.
09	Beyond the central location, the present site is beautiful, serene, and green. The present building has historic context - even with an addition! Stay!

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Comment</i>
09	It just wouldn't seem like the Cambridge Library if it weren't at the current Broadway location.
09	When building a new library - would you still have Broadway one as a sub-annex?
09	It would be great to continue to have parking if the library moved.
09	Now the library is centrally located for residents vs. most other choices for location. Also, the building has historic value, retrofitting seems the most logical choice pending that technically appropriate/feasible options are available. Sentimentality can be a valid reason for keeping it put - new doesn't equal better necessarily.
09	I think the Main Library is centrally located at its current site. It could use more parking.
09	I love the present location, but any but Kendall would be fine for me. I use the library at least 3 times per month and always walk there - it's a great way to get exercise!
09	I like where the library is now, but there is always the parking problem!
09	I live in area 9 and I hope you will leave the Main Library where it is.
09	Thanks for doing this survey! I really like keeping the library at the current location and creating the type of campus all ages including the high school will use. I hope we can create a bus system that operates between the T stops and the library in a user friendly way. If it is at Central Square (or any other location except Broadway) how do the high school students access it? Seems that transportation is an issue regardless. Most of all I'm glad to finally have a renovation, I'm appalled that we have the inferior library in Cambridge that currently exists.
09	What's wrong with the present site? It's about as central as, in Cambridge, it's possible to get. Why change a very very very good thing?
09	It think it's important for the library to be very easily accessible for school-aged children and teenagers, and to senior citizens in particular. For the former group, I advocate the current location of the library, as it is close to the High School.
09	The location now is central to many parts of the city - also close to many schools. The building is beautiful, inspiring and old... a must for a prominent feature of this great city.
09	I go almost weekly.
09	I love the current building and its locale. I walk there, take the car, and public transportation. The locale is convenient, central to all parts of Cambridge, parking is easy, and most important, the building is a warm, special place, and a historic building. I know the community wants to keep the playing field, but I hope we can keep the library where it is.

*Neighborhood*      *Comment*

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- 09      Clearly the current branch poses expansion difficulties because space is limited. However, a library is as much about accessibility and atmosphere as it is about sheer volume of editions.  
I hope the new library will include internet access and a good children's section. I often use the Boston P.L.'s reference desk because their breadth of knowledge and ability to research questions quickly and carefully is great! I'd also like to see an extensive periodical section. Would you have books on tape as well?  
Although tempting, please think carefully about relocating the library to an enormous commercial space. You may gain space but lose clients/patrons. There is something inviting and homey about the Broadway location.
- 10      An underground project at Broadway would be my first choice. I like it on Broadway because it is so accessible to students. All the high school students feel comfortable there. If not underground, it would be nice if an open area were kept to allow for grassy park area that exists now. Don't make the building too huge.
- 10      I am not a frequent "user." I suspect though if the library was closer - as in Alewife - I might "up" my frequency. Although I wish the High School would integrate it more into the life of its students.
- 10      I have a young child. Placing the library in a residential neighborhood that is safe, convenient, and appealing to walk to with a stroller significantly affects our usage. We would still go to Central Square with the stroller, but not as often. I doubt very much that we would travel to Kendall or Alewife because the excursion would be more difficult and less interesting to a toddler if he had to be in a car seat. Having places to walk is big part of the appeal of Cambridge living for us. Please don't take this away!!
- 10      I would like a large area of open grass, trees, and benches around the new library or at least an open atrium where one can sit and read.
- 10      The city should think about expense and transportation. The existing site is already accessible by T and bus. Presumably, it'd also be less expensive.
- 10      Please renovate at present site.
- 10      I strongly prefer expansion to take place at the current main library site on Broadway. Not only is that building for the most part beautiful, and an aesthetic joy to visit, but the complex of park, trees, and benches set off quietly from the street is ideal and conducive to the kind of great reflection a library should foster. Thank you for your kind consideration of my comments.
- 10      I like the library and use it frequently for reference.
- 10      Subway access is big plus. Central Square location would increase foot traffic there and put pressure on city for more police effort, less crime and cleaner street. More foot traffic also helps retailers in the area and creates a more pleasant atmosphere.
- 10      I am often in the neighborhood (or driving by) the current library location for other purposes. This makes it very convenient to stop at the library. This would not be the case for the other locations. Thanks for asking.
- 10      Parking will be an issue?

***Neighborhood***

***Comment***

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- 10      Wife tends to use little local library. Husband uses big main one.
- 10      Although a Central Sq. location would have the advantage of being on a subway line, there is a bus line (or two?) that goes past the library in its current location. And the present location has two advantages - being next to CRLS and being in a tranquil setting (no heavy traffic noise). Library should be in a central location and not at one end of the city (e.g. not at Kendall or Alewife).
- 10      Please do not move the library! Probably would be less inclined to use it in a new location.
- 10      Question - Who uses the library on Huron Ave.? Seems depleted of anything worth reading. Although, as a place for young people to go to after school, I suppose it suits its purpose.
- 10      Current location is about mid-Cambridge, therefore equitably convenient/inconvenient for everyone. Central is already too congested, and becoming very commercial, I feel, for a library.  
This questionnaire, incidentally, suggests that the main considerations for location are means of transportation. I do not like that message - it seems less about "what people want," and more about a P.C. City Transportation Policy.  
Build the library up - give us a view!
- 10      Central Square is the civic heart of the city and would make a great location for a library. I do not think that either the Kendall Sq. or Alewife location should be seriously considered - they are not centrally located at all. The existing library on Broadway should be maintained as a branch library because it is a great building and is so conveniently located to the high school. I wish the city the best of luck in locating the new library - it is a large project that is very difficult in Cambridge.
- 10      The only problem for the Main Library staying at Broadway is the construction time and inconvenience. Ideally, most construction should take place in the summer so there would be less of an impact on CRLS' classrooms.
- 10      How about converting the Armory, behind Tobin School, on Concord Ave. Lots of parking space, good access from the school, and for the school.
- 10      I like the old building and its location very much.
- 10      I use the library less now that I am in college at Lehigh Univ. in Bethlehem, PA but used it extensively when I was in high school. I went to Buckingham Brown and Nichols - they had an extensive library but I always needed to use Camb. Pub. Lib.
- 10      Would like to see parking expanded at the Broadway site. Please don't move the library... How about a bookmobile?
- 10      The location near/next door to the high school is very important. I reflect back on the wonderful support and help my 3 children received when researching for a paper or on an interest. The location next door was essential. With working parents, after school commitments, etc. going to yet another location wasn't feasible. Although the internet has made a difference, it is sad to think that we would expect everyone to have this access and it takes experience to wade through the garbage on the internet. Libraries encourage literacy, love of books. I love going to the library when it is teeming outside with the vast population. What a loss it would be to move it from its beautiful place.

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Comment</i>
10	We live between Harvard and Porter Sq. (closer to Harvard). We love the existing library but agree that it needs updating. It is a lovely Richardsonian building which we believe can be updated without losing the old architectural style. It has a central location and being near the high school also seems to be a benefit.
11	We have very few landmarks left. Don't take away all our fond memories. 81 year old Cambridge resident. Thank you.
11	How about 2 or 3 related bldgs. with shuttle and fast pick-up/trade of books among them... Current Main has poor access for cars... but I love it and think H.S. link is important.
11	If you decide on the Broadway location you could make better use of the upper floors.
11	Should be close to the poor.
11	Most of the time our family uses the O'Neil Branch on Rindge Ave. We also walk to the Somerville Branch on College Ave. If we use the subway, it's easiest to use the Boston Public Library. It was most convenient when we were allowed to borrow from BPL and return books to O'Neil. We would use the Cambridge Main library more if it were brought up to date and expanded.
11	Kendall Square is the worst site for a central center of the public library. To keep Central Square from being a congested municipal center - like Oakland in Pittsburgh, PA - the present location or Alewife would keep development diversified in Cambridge. A campus site - which favors Alewife - would be a very big plus.
11	Library use, by most people that work, is used at night. If there isn't any parking or little parking (like it is now) people will use libraries in other towns. Many times I've gone to the library on Broadway just to return a book and have gotten a parking ticket next to the library.
11	I currently have no preference because I tend to use the Belmont Library quite a bit to and from work. Living in the Alewife area I would certainly be more likely to visit a new main branch there, but I wonder if that would make it any less accessible to people in other parts of Cambridge. I also use the Arlington library quite a bit as it is not too far away. Just fixing up and adding to the current location will be a great improvement!
11	If the Library is in North Cambridge, where would it be located at? Where at Alewife?
11	Please don't do Alewife or Kendall as main location. Really needs to be able to walk/T stop/and accessible by car. No easily available free pkg. Alewife/Kendall. Personally, I love current location, but Central would probably be just as accessible.
11	Cambridge residents merit a first class library - easy access by car (and parking!!) and subway/bus is key. A writers' series would be wonderful also.
11	Leave it where it is.

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Comment</i>
11	Leave it where it is - it's central to most Cambridge residents. Just maintain the branch libraries! Re-doing the Main Lib. at the expense of the branches is inconsiderate move. I trust this will not happen. The North Cambridge branch is wonderful - Jesse and Norman, et al are great librarians.
11	Parking is a problem at Main Library at times. Alewife on the Rindge Ave. side would be great. No traffic to deal with, bike or car, as opposed to other side.
11	A main library would fit very well within the W.R. Grace construction plans and satisfy the neighborhood's complaints concerning major unwanted businesses such as a supermarket! Please strongly consider the area at W.R. Grace. Thank you.
11	I'd be thrilled if the library moved to the Alewife area. I'd use it much more. I currently use Belmont and Arlington and Somerville more than Cambridge.
11	Why not an addition on the present site - on the area that is now parking lot - with parking below the surface? What's the holdup? What's the problem? We use the beautiful original building - the high school retains the benefit of the main library nearby - minimal (if any) cutting into green space. Talk of taking a block in Central Square by eminent domain us eyewash when the city already has the land needed for expansion. The fact that political mishandling of this lost the city a not insubstantial amount of federal money really lessens my opinion of our elected officials such as it is.
11	Both Alewife and Kendall Squares strike me as terrible ideas - the main library should not be on the periphery of the city. I also think that proximity to Cambridge Rindge & Latin is a good thing - not that I see too many high school kids there when I visit the library, but it would be there to prevent students from getting the idea that the whole world of knowledge is online.
11	I use the library on Rindge Ave.
11	The main lib. on Broadway is a beautiful location near the schools. Hope you can stay there.
11	For years, at least fifty, we use both the Belmont Library on Concord Ave. and the Arlington Library in Arlington center. In order to be fair to all Cambridge citizens, it should be left where it is now located. If we were to use it, this is where we would like it.
11	Central and Kendall Squares are tough for North Cambridge residents to get to. Likewise, I imagine Alewife is tough for residents of other neighborhoods even though it would be great for our family. Please try to keep it more central as it is now.
11	I do not currently use the public library because I am a graduate student and have access to the university library. Upon graduating I am much more likely to use the public library at the Broadway location.
11	The Central Square location would be ideal. It would be close to the citywide senior center.

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Comment</i>
11	Keep library at Broadway. Increase/upgrade Broadway premise. Extend hours of satellite libraries, e.g. open on weekends. Enable book borrowing "on-line" with delivery via mail or a subscriber bookmobile delivery/pickup for a small fee.
11	The current location of the Main Library is adequate. The only "problem" is parking. Would any new location address this?
11	Access by car presumes sufficient convenient parking available. Access by bike presumes either Central Square or Alewife location. Alewife would be best for our family by far, but Central Square, if it has parking facilities, would be slightly better than the current location. Thanks for asking!
11	I love the old main library bldg. and would be sorry to see it go, but access for more people with less traffic congestion is important.
11	It would be nice to visit the Main Library more often and use some of the services it only offers. How nice if it were in the Alewife area. However, wherever it is located, please ensure that there is ample parking space. Thank you for your attention.
11	Central Square needs this kind of focus if it is to be renovated. The focus should be education/reading rather than gentrification.
11	As long as I can walk to it or there's parking, I don't care where it is. Obviously I like Alewife because I live in North Cambridge. Bigger problem for me is not where it is, but how long it takes to get a current book. Very long reserve lists.
11	We have access to the Harvard, B.C., Boston and B.U. libraries, so we would visit the City of Cambridge Library very rarely. Only if it had something different and unique to offer.
11	Please leave it where it is.
12	I have a car and am a heavy library user, so my preference is not so important. I am willing to go to libraries in several MLN locations to get what I want. I think the more important user is the person without a car.
12	I would be much more likely to use the Cambridge Library if it were close to a T stop, preferably Central Square, and Kendall would be my second choice.
12	I am a regular card-carrying participant of the library in Copley Sq., Boston. Most certainly a library in the Alewife location would be my preference over all others.

<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Comment</i>
13	As is clear from looking at the map, the present library is located close to the center of the city; that's the best reason for keeping it where it is, not moving it to some extremity, like Alewife. I'd rather see a renovation of the present building than a completely new building. You do not mention branch libraries in this form, yet they are very important in a city as spread-out as Cambridge - especially for older people and children. Can more be done to improve the facilities of these neighborhood branches? I'd rather see that happen than have a brand new, big building in Kendall Square. P.S. thanks for asking!
13	Keep original library - short walk from Harvard Square.
13	I'd like the new library to have more room for studying.
13	Parking critical, as is easy access via public transportation. Although I prefer Alewife for selfish reasons, keeping the library centrally located with easy access to schools would be the best decision.
99	Central Square would be a disaster! No parking, bad traffic. We love the library and use it constantly.
99	Moving the library to Alewife would seriously limit the ability of most Cambridge residents to access the facility. First, the Somerville Library in Davis Square already serves the communities situated in North Cambridge, Somerville, and even Arlington. Second, while the current location on Broadway is nice, it is situated directly between the C. Sq. and Harvard T stops, making it a bit of a trek for anyone using public transportation (at least the subway). And many residents I know do not realize the library is on Broadway, whereas everyone can tell you where the City Hall building is located. Moving to Central Square is an excellent idea, and might substantially increase your ability to serve Cambridge residents, especially if it was to occupy a prominent place on or near Mass Ave. If that doesn't work out, then stay put.
99	I do not have a car so am dependent on walking and bus/subway. Exactly where within Alewife or Central Sq.? I live in North Cambridge. Kendall Sq. is less convenient for me.
99	I really like the current building, location, etc. Expanding and improving the current site would be best. Also, making more parking available would be important.
99	This is a bad map - no landmarks - I haven't a clue as to where I am on this map.
99	Need more movies in the main library!
99	I think you could spend the money better. How about Police Station or just feed the poor and house the homeless.
99	You provide a wonderful service for those patrons who live, but are not centrally engaged with the Harvard Community. Perhaps the setting and building (with staff) are the most positive attributes for the preservation of a non-commercial, intelligent consumer public. Thank you all for your wonderful work.

**Neighborhood****Comment**

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- 99 The Main Library is convenient and accessible to the High School students. As many of the colleges in the area have their own libraries, I do not see why tax payers have to pay to build another!! The whole idea is absurd, especially seeing how many people use their own personal computers to gain access to research documents or their local libraries in their neighborhood. Who is getting the "payola?" Any tax monies should go to relieving the burden of increased Water and Sewer charges. This is something that will make life unbearable while a new library is at the bottom of the food chain.
- 99 Design the building with a winter garden-enclosed landscape, ala Supreme Court Building Vancouver, Ford Foundation Building NYC, etc.
- 99 Please keep it in that beautiful building!
- 99 Central would be a great neighborhood for library and I strongly support a move there.
- 99 Kendall/East Camb. could use and handle a large library. On weekends when most working people have a chance to use the library, the Central and Alewife areas are mobbed with people. Kendall is like a ghost town. A library would bring more locals to the areas and it would be very accessible.
- 99 We are near the Concord Ave. branch in West Cambridge. Under most circumstances, it serves us well. We swim near the main branch present location, so that is also good for us. We also like its nearness to the city's only high school.
- 99 The current location is very accessible and the parking area is very important. Please include ample parking space in the new plans. I hope the new building has as much character as the existing structure, but with three times the storage space! Good luck!!
- 99 Location should be a factor of the amount of parking provided. Newton's (relatively) new main library provides ample parking - and therefore can depend primarily on access by autos.
- 99 Parking is important. Central Square is so limited with parking already and I think putting a big library there would change the atmosphere and landscape too much. Kendall Square is more open and needs a FREE parking lot. Alewife is inconvenient because of heavy traffic during many rush hours of the day.
- 99 I am a thirty year Cambridge resident and the author of many best-selling books. Yet the Cambridge Public Library, which I support through my tax dollars, doesn't begin to have all my books. What's the problem? Let's see some more local support for the people that are supporting you.
- 99 I love the current library on Broadway. I hope you will be able to somehow use the current building, maintain its warmth, coziness, and friendliness while you add onto it to provide more space for books and services.
- 99 Not enough parking space at Broadway. Many times had to leave immediately!
- 99 I normally use the library in Belmont, Concord Ave., because of my West Cambridge location, Belmont St.



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10.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
ROBERT W. HEALY  
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI  
Deputy City Manager

March 22, 1999

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Attached please find the final report on the survey soliciting opinions and comments on siting options for a new main library.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

Attachment

8-19/5  
Consent Agenda #10.

Communication relative to the  
final report on the survey  
soliciting opinions and comments  
on siting options for a new main  
library.

In City Council March 22, 1999.

**PLACED ON FILE**