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March 12, 1998

The City Council
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

The Honorable, The City Council:

For nearly a year now, the Community Planning and Public Works Departments have been engaged in a dialog with the public over renovations to North Massachusetts Avenue. My home is in North Cambridge and my wife and I have participated in most of these meetings. I have also served on the separate committee dealing with Porter Square.

The North Massachusetts Avenue process has been both thorough and open. Meetings were well-publicized and well-attended. Working plans and options were clearly presented. Everybody got a chance to discuss the issues and to have their opinions heard.

Now I am given to understand that a few people, dissatisfied with resulting plan, seek to bypass the process and take their issues directly to the City Council. Of course there are areas, such as the median strip, where reasonable people can disagree. I am also concerned about lack of enforcement and the possibility of increased illegal left and U-turns, though on balance I think the interrupted median is a good thing. The existence of such disagreements and legitimate concerns should not be confused with a lack of public input, however.

The process has been an excellent one. The public has been given every possible opportunity to comment and to make suggestions as the plans have evolved. I look forward to the many advantages that the new design will bring and hope that we can find ways to resolve any remaining neighborhood concerns.

Respectfully,

John H Howard

Cc: Steve White, Deputy Commissioner, DPW
Stuart Dash, Director of Community Planning

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Consnet Communication #3

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Communication was received from
John H. Howard, transmitting his
concern over issues raised by some
citizens regarding renovations to
North Massachusetts Avenue.

In City Council March 23, 1998

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