

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

City Council
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139
Via fax

RE: Extreme Distance Between Crosswalks in the North Mass Ave Redesign Plans

Dear Councilors:

I write to bring your attention to serious, and unresolved, safety issues concerning the planned North Mass Ave redesign.

In a letter dated 30 June, 1998, Cambridge Transportation Program Manager, Cara Seiderman, informed me that "300' [between crosswalks] is a benchmark widely used by pedestrian facility design experts in the United States today." Ms. Seiderman's letter was in response to a letter I sent her on 8 June, 1998 noting that the removal of the median strip will make crossing North Mass Ave a much more dangerous proposition. I have sent the council both communications on a previous occasion.

Upon closer study of the project plans last distributed to the public in April, 1998, it appears that some crosswalks, including the ones nearest Pemberton Market and the Pemberton Garden Center, are **over 400' apart**. These extreme distances, over 30% greater than the already excessive "benchmark" distance Ms. Seiderman noted, pose a major public safety threat to the people of North Cambridge and elsewhere who walk or travel along North Mass Ave.

Virtually no one is going to walk 200' or more to cross Mass Ave. People will cross where it is convenient and some people simply won't make it across safely. That DPW, Community Development/Department and Traffic and Parking Department staff have all downplayed the excessive distance between crosswalks and the dangers this distance will pose to pedestrians demonstrates just how little they are concerned with public safety in North Cambridge.

The Council must direct the City Manager to revisit the Avenue redesign with the intent of keeping the safety island/median strip largely intact. Any Council action that does not maintain this important safety feature falls far short of ensuring the safety of those of us who live, work and travel along the North Mass Ave corridor.

Should you have any questions about this letter or any other North Cambridge issue please feel free to call me at 617-354-8353 or email me at VoteCraig@Att.com.

Sincerely,


Craig A. Kelley

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	10/22/98	# of pages	1
To	Margaret	From	Sandra		
Co./Dept.		Co.			
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #		Fax #			

Consent Communication #15

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A communication was received from Craig A. Kelley, regarding the extreme distance between the crosswalks in the North Mass. Ave. redesign plans.

In City Council October 26, 1998

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