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Lopez, Donna

From: Carolyn A Fuller [fuller@MIT.EDU]
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 6:08 PM
To: Lopez, Donna
Subject: Carolyn Fuller's statement on item 7

Dear City Council,

I am writing as a resident of Area IV in response to policy order resolution no. 7 which asks for a traffic and parking study for Areal IV.

I live in the heart of Area IV on 12 Douglass St right off Bishop Allen. I support the current developments of 10 Essex St. 10 Essex St will help improve Bishop Allen and add much needed apartments. I strongly believe the way to solve our traffic problems is to add residents next to public transit and reduce parking lots.

I strongly encourage City Council to think creatively about the problem of traffic and parking. If it is only about parking and moving cars, then we will never become a sustainable city and traffic will continue to increase and parking will get worse. Parking inconvenience is really a part of living in a city. To assume that we should be able to park so easily and drive without any traffic is not possible and unrealistic. In any case, our traffic situation is so much better than living in the suburbs, where, if you take the time to drive out there during rush hour, you truly begin to understand what traffic really is.

I recommend that the city consider improving what we can in our public transit system, including adding bus only lanes, and expanding our biking infrastructure so it is as safe and accessible as possible. We can also require that any reduction in parking for development comes with a deed that does not give resident parking stickers to those residents. That would also signal our commitment to sustainable development.

I hope that the City Council will encourage the gradual renewal of Central Square and support the much needed addition of housing and affordable retail. There are creative solutions to parking and transportation, let's take advantage of them. Traffic and parking studies don't address more holistic and sustainable strategies to transportation. We need to embrace these strategies as we think about future development. Things may take time, but we want a better city and a sustainable city.

Sincerely,

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