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**From:** Alden Smith [mailto:[alden.ware.smith@gmail.com](mailto:alden.ware.smith@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 07, 2014 1:45 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Lopez, Donna  
**Subject:** Comments on Policy Order 14 - For Official Record

Dear Councilors,

I am writing to express my opposition to policy order 14 on the agenda of the April 7th meeting. The Master Plan process called for in the policy order would:

- Create significant uncertainty regarding future development in Cambridge and a time when more certainty is required to encourage housing investment.
- Steal momentum from the Kendall Square Central Square Planning Study (K2C2) initiative, which embodies the dedication and hard work of the numerous residents and stakeholders who participated in the process. The city should not throw out this work just because a vocal minority does not happen to agree with all of the reports' recommendations.
- Overly politicize the planning process in Cambridge by placing it under the purview of City Council Committees instead of the professional staff of the Community Development Department.

**Most importantly, policy order 14 would ultimately delay and reduce the supply of desperately-needed new housing in Cambridge.** The real crisis in Cambridge is affordability, NOT transportation congestion.

Change is understandably scary to many people. But attempting to preserve the status quo in amber will only hinder the city's efforts to remain inclusive, affordable, and sustainable. Cambridge does not suffer from a lack of planning but from a lack of new housing. Expanding all manner of housing options through dense, infill development is the best way to preserve the diverse and vibrant Cambridge we all love -- not misguided attempts at micromanaging growth.

Sincerely,

Alden Smith

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