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Cosgrove, Marybeth

From: Albano, Sandra
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:05 PM
To: Crane, Paula; Cosgrove, Marybeth
Subject: FW: Comments Re: Transportation Committee "public meeting" on Concord-Alewife (@ the Tobin School)

From: James in Cambridge [<mailto:tompaine@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 3:53 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Comments Re: Transportation Committee "public meeting" on Concord-Alewife (@ the Tobin School)

[Please include these comments for the record of the committee meeting, or as a "communication to the Council," if necessary. Thanks. J. Williamson]

Dear Members of the Transportation Committee, and the City Council:

After an hour-and-a-half of "presentations" by various members of city departments, I couldn't take it anymore and had to leave. (I left the auditorium at around 7:30 p.m. in order to catch the #72 Bus which runs along Huron Ave; was I one of the few, if perhaps the only, person at this difficult-to-get-to "transportation" meeting having to travel to-and-from the meeting by public transportation?)

I believe that the residents attending the meeting know more about the reality and problems in the area than most staff, although it can, of course, be useful to have numbers and data presented -- *as long as we don't make the mistake of thinking that any "numbers" alone can tell or explain the whole story, by any means.*

The suggested "rule" for public comment (whenever it finally came) -- to wit, additional time only if "relevant insights" were being shared -- could and should have been applied to the presenters, as well, whose useful material/analysis could probably have been presented in 45 minutes, allowing a more refreshing opportunity for the knowledge and experience/concerns of residents and the public.

1. Why is there no MBTA Commuter Rail Station being considered for the area just west of the Alewife Brook Parkway, in conjunction with any bike/pedestrian "bridge" over this Fitchburg Commuter Rail line railroad tracks??

2. Why is nothing being done to improve the safety and ease of existing -- and possibly an additional -- pedestrian crossings at Rindge Avenue and Alewife Brook Parkway?? This is obviously an extremely crossing for anyone who bothers to experience it; several people have apparently been injured here and at least one woman was killed here already, if I'm not mistaken.

Solutions would seem fairly obvious and doable here; these are preventable injuries and deaths for which there ought to be no excuse. What are we waiting for?? [State Rep. John Hecht, to his credit, did, at least, allude to these preventable casualties during his remarks, just as I was having to leave.]

3. "Data" presented does actually confirm what anyone who lives along Rindge Avenue already know: Rindge Avenue has the greatest increase in PM rush (one) hour traffic in the area -- an

additional 135 trips during this PM hour [over when?]

What is being done to mitigate this public health menace to the lower-income residents of Jefferson Park and all others who live in this neighborhood??

4. Nothing has yet been done to *defend and protect pedestrians walking along the Russell Field-to-Alewife 'T' head house corridor/path*, who are constantly endangered and rendered extremely anxious by a majority of bicyclists who wantonly race through this area, with no regard for the safety, comfort or legal obligations to the many people who walk here.

Instead, we are informed that there will be a "new Hubway station" at precisely this same head house!

I hope addressing these, and other, considerations will be part of planning for this area, and that some helpful action will be taken soon on the pedestrian crossing and the path.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, James M. Williamson
1000 Jackson Place
Cambridge, MA 02140