

Lopez, Donna

From: Mary Jo Fresolo [mfresolo@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 5:30 PM
To: City Council; Clippinger, Sue
Cc: Lopez, Donna
Subject: Support for Bishop Petition/Traffic Estimates

Hello,

I live in 12 Columbus Ave at the corner of Madison Ave in North Cambridge. My family has lived in this location since 1959.

Personal issues make it hard for me to get to the meeting on March 5th, but I needed to express a concern especially about traffic counts and the new developments in the Fawcett Oil/former Norberg's Greenhouses and the Tyler Court locations.

Our family has seen many good improvements in the North Mass Ave area. The CAM400 project which happened from April 2011 to November 2012 was not a good project in my opinion - too many things happened at the same time and not all the "improvements" made an improvement. But that's for another email.

The proposed developments at Fawcett Oil/former Norberg's Greenhouses over to the Tyler Court locations will make our already congested neighborhood even more difficult to maneuver at peak times of the weekdays especially, and also on the weekends. The number of units built needs to be kept to a minimum to reflect adjacent property use by single family and multi-family. Frankly, the amount should be greater than what was built at the former BayBank site at the corner of Churchill Ave and Mass Ave. Even that development added too many units and more traffic congestion.

Keep the counts of units built to minimum as proposed in the Bishop Petition and realize that there will some units with 3-4 cars per unit and others with only one. We won't know this until the units are built and sold. Realize too that the overflow parking will spill into our neighborhood parking on Whittemore Ave and possibly Magoun Street and Madison Ave and the nearby short streets: Brookford Street, Cottage Park Ave and Edmunds Street.

The Cambridge Lumber site should also be kept to a minimum number of units for this same reason. Harvey Street is narrow with parking only on one-side so the overflow from the development at Cambridge Lumber will end up on Harvey Streets and other surrounding side streets.

One thing in an October 18, 2011 memo from Susan Clippinger that stands out are the estimates of traffic counts that flow through our neighborhood. These seem very low, in my personal opinion. The vehicles for W.R. Grace and One Alewife Center do not seem to be accounted for on these estimates. There are close to 800 cars for W.R. Grace and about 400 cars for One Alewife that come into our neighborhood mostly on Mondays through Fridays. I know that these vehicles are there mostly only Monday through Friday, but about 150-200 are also there in all the parking lots over the weekends.

Our neighborhood is a bypass for Route 16 traffic after 7:00 pm Mondays through Saturdays, and those cars are not always respectful of speed limits (not posted on Whittemore, but should be) and stop signs. There is sometimes an officer in our neighborhood, but not every night.

I would suggest that a traffic light on Mass Ave East-bound to Cambridge be added at Brookford to allow all traffic from the new developments a traffic light to get onto Mass Ave either making a left or right turn safely.

All traffic from these new developments would route out Brookford to Mass Ave, not to Whittemore or Madison to Columbus.

I would strongly recommend no new traffic be allowed access to Whittemore Ave. We already too much traffic through our neighborhood.

I would also strongly recommend a Stop Sign be placed on both sides of Whittemore Ave at Kassul Park and not a way-over-priced-and-does-not-stop-speeders-and-other-offenders raised pedestrian crossing be studied and installed there. That would be an extreme waste of my taxpayer money

Stop Signs with painted pedestrian crosswalks bring revenue to the city when an offender is issued a citation and hits the offender in the pocket book a few ways: the citation and insurance premium increases. It also adds the incidents to the offender's driving record which deters most drivers from being repeat offenders.

If you need more information, please reply back to this email.

Thank you for your time and consideration and my apologies for not attending the meeting in person.

Mary Jo Fresolo
12 Columbus Ave
North Cambridge MA