

I am here to speak about Manager's agenda item No. 3 regarding the reconstruction of the Monsignor O'Brien Highway in conjunction with the relocation of the Lechmere MBTA station to the north side of that roadway. As stated in the letter from Mr. Murphy and Ms. Clippinger to the Manager, the plans for that reconstruction were made nearly a decade ago. In that time, there have been changes that should be considered when looking at the North Point / Lechmere Square roadway design. They include continuing changes in demographics, automobile usage, employment opportunities, development plans for Kendall Square and East Somerville (including a de-elevation study for the McGrath portion of Rt. 28), and the developing vision of what we would like eastern Cambridge to be.

The particular order only addresses the width of the roadway at Lechmere Square, but the actual follow-up will need to look at the broader context in which this stretch of road lies. It would do the city a service if it included consideration of the following points:

1. More connectivity, or porosity, of North Point such as possible connections to Innerbelt, and Rutherford Avenue.
2. The millions of people walking from Lechmere station to the CambridgeSide Galleria mall annually and the thousands of residents and workers which will eventually inhabit North Point.
3. The increasing usage of non single-occupant automobile transport modes.
4. The reconstruction of the current Lechmere station parcel as a mixed-use Lechmere Square with significant public amenities.

I also invite all of you and the public to a forum to be held at the Broad Institute Auditorium on the future development of North Point and Lechmere Square on June 15th sponsored by the East Cambridge Planning Team.

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Board Member,  
East Cambridge Planning Team  
Lechmere Square Association

