

3 October 2007

Secretary Ian A. Bowles
MEPA, Attn. Briony Angus EEA #14069
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston MA 02114

Dear Secretary Bowles:

LivableStreets appreciates the opportunity to comment on the recent **Phase I Waiver** granted to Harvard for the development of a Science Complex in Allston. While we had hoped that a waiver would not have been granted, we are optimistic that our remaining concerns can still be addressed with the development of the Science Complex project.

Our biggest concern is that the DPIR does not contain any provisions for bicycle accommodation along Western Ave. As we have stated in previous comment letters, it is imperative that bicycling be accommodated to the fullest degree in and around the Science Complex and throughout North Allston in order to achieve the high bicycle mode share that Harvard is aiming for. Since it is such an important connection to the Science Complex, we urge Harvard to upgrade and improve Western Ave to include on-road bike lanes. It is noted in the waiver that Harvard plans to upgrade sidewalks along 25 blocks of Western Ave and North Harvard St and plant street trees along Western Ave. It is key that upgrades to bicycling are made to these same blocks, and that upgrades for pedestrians and bicyclists continue as far as possible, preferably along the entire lengths of both of these roads. Waiting to make these upgrades until future development occurs would be a great misstep in our opinion.

We understand that there is much work to be done to improve the area around the Science Complex and North Allston as a whole to make it better for bicyclists. However, since Harvard has set a very high bar for sustainable transportation, it would be a great misstep to ignore one of the two most important corridors in the area, the one in which the Science Complex will be located directly upon.

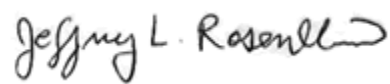
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Thank you for considering our suggestions. Please feel free to contact us to discuss any of our comments in greater detail.

Sincerely,



Charles Denison
Board of Directors
LivableStreets Alliance



Jeffrey L. Rosenblum, PE
Executive Director
LivableStreets Alliance