

7 November, 2006

Para Jayasinghe, P.E.
Boston Department of Public Works
1 City Hall Plaza
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mr. Jayasinghe:

The signatories of this letter formally request that the City of Boston Public Works Department **postpone the submittal of the 75% design for the Massachusetts Avenue project #600636** to MassHighway. We are of the opinion that submitting the 75% design at this time is premature and does not serve the best interests of the project nor the public.

On May 17, 2006, at the suggestion of MassHighway, you invited our collective (LivableStreets Alliance, WalkBoston, Adaptive Environments, and MassBike) to a briefing in your office on this project and provided copies of the 25% plans. You requested an incredibly tight turnaround time for comments. Eight workdays later, we provided written comments to you in a letter dated May 30. On October 18, you invited us for a briefing on October 30, which was followed by a presentation you gave to the "Mass. Ave. Task Force" on November 1. To date, we have not received any written response to our May 30 letter, nor seen plans that indicate changes made to the project since the 25% design. As a reminder, WalkBoston has yet to receive a formal response to comment letters regarding this project dated July 8, 1994, September 7, 1995, and July 6, 2005 (re-sent November 17, 2005). Although advocates have repeatedly expressed interest in collaborating with the City on this project, advocacy groups were not invited to participate in the "Mass. Ave. Taskforce" formed in the late 1990's, and knew very little of its activity. Lower Roxbury, a community on the southern side of Mass. Ave., has had little to no input into this project.

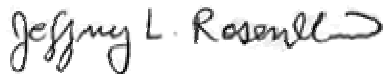
We request that a written response to our comments be provided to us, along with a copy of the un-submitted 75% design drawings as they presently stand. We will conduct a due-diligence review and provide you with our feedback. We feel comfortable with scheduling a follow-up meeting with you ten (10) working days from receipt of these materials, with the goal of a meeting on November 30, 2006.

A formal submittal of the 75% design triggers an extensive review process by MassHighway, Federal Highway, and all other required parties— this will consume a significant amount of time and money. We feel that key stakeholders, such as ourselves, other important constituents, and key agencies (such as the MBTA), should have ample opportunity to weigh in on changes made to the 25% design of the project prior to a formal submittal of the 75% design to MassHighway.

We believe that a brief delay in the submittal of the 75% design will not affect the timeline and will not delay the project start date.

We hope that we can work together on the shared purpose of making this a successful project equitably and adequately serving and welcoming to all users of this street, those who live, work, or play in the City of Boston, for now and into the future. Please contact me with any questions or concerns at (617) 939-3824 or rosenblum.jeff@gmail.com.

Best Regards,



Jeffrey L. Rosenblum, P.E.
Executive Director, LivableStreets Alliance

On behalf of:

Jeffrey L. Rosenblum, P.E., Executive Director, LivableStreets Alliance
Wendy Landman, Executive Director, WalkBoston
Valerie Fletcher, Executive Director, Adaptive Environments
Christopher Hart, Director of Urban and Transit Projects, Adaptive Environments
David Watson, Executive Director, Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition
Bhupesh Patel, Principal, DesignTank

cc:

Kimberly Sloan (MassHighway)
James Gillooly (BTD)
William Onuoha (Mayor's Office)