

Cambridge City Hall Annex
Cambridge, MA 02139
344 Broadway

September 19, 2016

Cambridge Planning Board
344 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02139

By Email to Liza Paden (lpaden@cambridgema.gov)

Re: PB #315 MXD Infill Development Plan

Dear Members of the Cambridge Planning Board,

On behalf of the Cambridge Bicycle Committee, I write with regard to the MXD Infill Development Plan.

First, we would like to articulate our strong support for the additional bicycle path along the Sixth Street corridor, connecting Binney Street to Ames Street. This is a key link in the Kendall Square network, and a dual path system will alleviate potential congestion and conflict as more and more people are walking and bicycling. We assume that appropriate signals and markings will be included with the detailed design.

We are also supportive of additional Hubway stations, and larger ones. Hubway is an important addition to our sustainable transportation choices and is currently under-supplied. So many more people being added to the system means that this area will need far more than just one more station.

Our main concern with the proposal is access to long term bicycle parking.

With the bicycle parking not on the ground floor of Building A or B, it appears that access will be through an elevator, given that the ramp is too steep. We see a conflict occurring when users are moving through the elevator lobby in opposite directions; in the morning when bicycles and riders are entering and then waiting for elevators and at the same time as exiting parking patrons, and the reverse occurring in the evening when departing bicyclists must exit the elevators and navigate through the lobby filled with parking patrons waiting for the elevators. This scenario will cause unnecessary confusion and turmoil between users when ease of access and use is the objective.

The City goals, which we share, are to make bicycling a priority, and people should be able to choose to bicycle in the easiest way possible. Bicycle parking should be on the ground floor of any parking garage. Where parking is not at ground level, a dedicated bicycle elevator and related elevator lobby or waiting area, or a dedicated bicycle ramp at the appropriate slope

would address this issue. Clear signage so that the path to the bicycle parking is easily navigated would also be important for the development as a whole.

We believe that this added level of detail will significantly improve the quality of the project, and that it will help reduce reliance on motor vehicles for future users of this complex. We thank you for your attention and for your continued support of bicycle facilities in Cambridge.

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Proscia
Chair, Cambridge Bicycle Committee