



*A Neighborhood Organization for the Betterment of East Cambridge*

June 16, 2023

Cambridge Redevelopment Authority  
255 Main Street. 8th Floor  
Cambridge, MA 02142

**RE: Broad Institute Sculpture and Galaxy Park Design**

Dear Board Chair Born; Vice Chair Crawford; Members Bator, Zevin, and Drury:

The East Cambridge Planning Team (ECPT) Board reviewed the Broad Institute's proposed sculpture installation at 415 Main Street and the design of the Galaxy Park in Kendall Square and have the following recommendations:

**Broad Institute Sculpture**

The ECPT Board would like to express its support for the Broad Institute's proposed sculpture installation at 415 Main Street. The proposed art would be a welcome addition to the street scape of Main Street which up to now has been a combination of hard building surfaces and with few exceptions any animation and color. This proposal, we believe, would improve the pedestrian experience along one of our major Streets and contribute to a more interesting environment in the neighborhood.

**Galaxy Park Design**

The Board would also like to express our support for Design 2 presented by Mr. Engler of the Sasaki firm, consultants to the authority, as it provides for the opportunity for more tree canopy. Given the desire to increase the tree canopy as soon as possible we recommend that you take the opportunity to acquire and relocate one or more of the healthy and mature trees on the Volpe site that are scheduled for destruction and relocate them within the Galaxy Park.

The board also recommends that additional safety measures for cyclists, pedestrians and emergency vehicles be considered. Several members of our team who have regular overview of the intersection, during all hours of the day and night, have noted the many times the lack of clarity amongst the conflicting movements have resulted in accidents or near misses. We recommend that the consultant be instructed to add Bike Boxes and bike signals at the signalized portions of the intersection in order to allow bicycles to clear the intersection before larger vehicles are permitted to proceed.

We also recommend that those portions of the bikeways at street level be painted green throughout their pathway to improve clarity and visibility for motor vehicles and pedestrians that interface with the cycle ways. Somerville has demonstrated the value of this approach which has contributed to greater safety for cyclists.

Finally, we urge you to recognize the significant number of medical emergency vehicle runs that use Main Street, Broadway and Third street to gain access to the Longfellow Bridge as they proceed to their destination at Massachusetts General Hospital and other associated medical facilities. Every effort should be made to facilitate easy access to this often-critical pathway. The current plan that offers more space for a cycle way across the bridge should be adjusted to recognize this important public safety need.

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East Cambridge  
**ECPT**  
Planning Team

Very truly yours,



Charles T. Hinds  
President, ECPT

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