

From: Sue Tamber Housman [<mailto:sth.bikemom@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2017 4:24 PM

To: Polly Selkoe; Alison Steinfeld; Ashley Clark; Todd Kirrane

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Development at 455 Harvard Street/ 40 B Project

TO: Town of Brookline Board of Zoning Appeals
Town of Brookline Planning and Community Development Department
Town of Brookline Planning Board
Town of Brookline Transportation Division of DPW

FROM: Sue Tamber Housman
46 Columbia Street

RE: Opposition to the Proposed Development
455 Harvard Street Brookline, MA
Traffic Hazards

DATE: 7 Jun 2017

The proposed development creates unprecedented traffic problems for both immediate area and the entire length of Harvard Street.

The block between the intersection of Harvard and Thorndike Street and Harvard Street and Russell/Lawton Streets currently experiences heavy multi directional traffic:

with vehicles entering and exiting Harvard Street from

- four positions at Harvard and Thorndike Streets,
- three positions at Harvard and Columbia Street
- four positions at Harvard and Russell/Lawton Streets
- four positions at the gasoline station between Columbia and Harvard Streets
- three positions at the mini mall parking lot between the proposed project and the mini mall
- specialized traffic at the funeral home on Harvard Street between Russell and Columbia Streets

with bicycles entering and exiting Harvard Street from

- four positions at Harvard and Thorndike Streets,
- three positions at Harvard and Columbia Street
- three positions at the mini mall parking lot between the proposed project and the mini mall

pedestrians [including school children] crossing at

- four crosswalks and Harvard and Russell/ Lawton Streets
- the mini mall to Harvard Street
- four crosswalks and Harvard and Thorndike Streets

During warm months, bicyclists leave and return to the bike rack placed in front of the gas station between Columbia and Thorndike Streets.

It doesn't take a professional to recognize that is more complicated than just a high *volume* of traffic, it is an extraordinary high volume of traffic *changing* directions-- involving vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists in the length of a single city block.

The proposed project will adversely impact an area already beset with an unduly complex traffic pattern by:

- adding an additional seventeen housing units at the four way intersection of Harvard and Thorndike Streets
 - o thirteen units will have automobiles exiting from a single location onto the small, narrow street [Thorndike]
 - o these thirteen vehicles will frequently enter the intersection of Harvard and Thorndike Streets
 - o all seventeen units will attract visitors also adding to vehicular, pedestrian or bicycle traffic
- adding a loading dock in between the mini mall and Thorndike Street, opposite both the gas station and the bike rack
 - o deliveries at the loading dock will take up space on Harvard Street, compelling vehicles to pass on the left, further into the street. This will narrow space for both lanes of traffic.
 - o How could the 66 bus have enough space to pass a delivery truck without moving into the oncoming lane of traffic?
 - o If there are multiple shops and each shop offers more than a single product, how many delivery vehicles will be involved? How frequently and to what extent will this constrict the flow of traffic?
- adding shops on the first floor of the proposed project will attract additional automotive, pedestrian and bicycle traffic to the area.
- The slow down created by the increase in traffic will spread in both directions on Harvard Street and into the neighborhoods, tying up traffic for a large radius.

As a bicyclist with close to 44 years of urban bicycle commuting I find exiting Columbia Street onto Harvard Street to be dangerous in its current configuration.

The numbers above point first to congestion, but the amount of different movements will be complicated enough to make good decisions more difficult and increase the danger to everyone involved in the area, possibly to a life threatening level.

I cannot urge you strongly enough not to allow this plan to go forward.

Thank you for your concern for the people of Brookline.