

Nadia Khan

From: David A. Olson
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2016 4:12 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Nadia Khan
Subject: FW: Please forward to city councilors

From: Barbara Bix [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2016 4:03 PM
To: David A. Olson
Subject: Please forward to city councilors

Dear City Councilors,

I am concerned about the recent proposed developments in our neighborhood and do not feel “heard” as a resident, citizen and voter. I’ve lived across the street from the Cabot School for 20 years and am concerned that the city is overriding zoning laws without apparent justification as follows:

Orr block:

I hope that you will not move forward with this development until a plan is in place for greatly improving public transit.

- Despite the assertion that Newtonville is a “transit hub”, one cannot count on public transit even to get into the city and back.
 - On Wednesday July 5, I arrived at the train station to take the 6:38 train. It was canceled. The flashing sign said that the 504, normally an “express”, would make all stops. It, too, was behind schedule. So, after waiting one hour (during rush hour), I finally boarded a train at 7:30a headed for downtown
 - Today, at 2:05p, I headed from downtown to Newton. Since the commuter rail would not run again for a couple hours, I headed over to Summer and Otis to catch the express bus. The next scheduled bus arrived only 10 minutes late at 2:55p.
- There is no convenient public transit to other popular destinations (e.g. Route 128 or Cambridge).
- If we don’t have frequent reliable transportation, people will require one automobile per driver
- Washington Street, particularly West Newton and the rotary at Newton Corner already have more traffic than they can process.

It is apparently not feasible to either run more commuter trains on the track, or add stops in Newton, to the trains that already travel the tracks—so we must look for other solutions.

Funding will not come from Boston or the state, so we will need to fund either through local property taxes or assessments on new development.

Thank you for your consideration.

PS. I’m sure these developments will also make demands on other city infrastructure, however; the impact on our crowded streets is the most apparent to me.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Barbara Bix
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