

31 March 2008

Alex Strysky
DEP Waterways Regulation Program
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Chapter 91 Application, IKEA Assembly Square (W08-2267-N)

Dear Mr. Strysky:

LivableStreets would like to take this opportunity to comment on the Chapter 91 Application for IKEA at Assembly Square in Somerville.

LivableStreets is a non-profit organization that advocates for better streets and public spaces throughout the Metro Boston area, focusing on ensuring access by pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and persons with disabilities.

The development of IKEA at Assembly Square will undoubtedly have a variety of effects on the immediate and surrounding area where it is to be built. One important goal is to ensure that the end result lives up to its full potential for the benefit of all. With this in mind, access to open space is a key issue. Since IKEA will be built on filled tidelands, and is subject to the Chapter 91 process, we would like to ensure that open space on the property itself is accessible and that access to and from open spaces adjacent to the property is maximized.

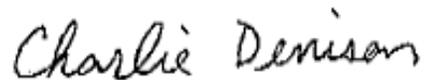
There are three specific recommendations that we would like to make. Similar recommendations have also been submitted by Alan Moore, Chair of the Somerville Bicycle Committee and active member of the Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership (S.T.E.P.). These recommendations are:

- That the proposed green space (park) within the IKEA property not be fenced in and not locked at night.
- That a new multi-use path be constructed, from IKEA Way (near the proposed Orange Line station) to Lombardi Way/Mystic Ave along the eastern edge of the property, to allow for better pedestrian and bicycle access within the property as well as to the parkland and future developments further north. This will form a desirable off-road connection from the Sullivan Square area to Assembly Square, particularly to the Mystic River Waterfront and Draw 7 Park.
- That an agreement be made to support a second Orange Line station headhouse at Assembly Square which would allow for better access to IKEA.

We ask that these recommendations be agreed upon by the developer prior to granting the Chapter 91 Application for the IKEA development.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss any of our comments in greater detail. My cell phone number is 413-478-9058 and my e-mail address is charlie@livablestreets.info.

Sincerely,



Charles Denison
Board of Directors
LivableStreets Alliance