

December 28, 2009

Honorable Mayor E. Denise Simmons  
and Cambridge City Council  
795 Massachusetts Ave.  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Delivered by Adobe PDF to: [mayor@cambridgema.gov](mailto:mayor@cambridgema.gov) and  
[council@cambridgema.gov](mailto:council@cambridgema.gov)

**RE: Support for Proposed Changes at River St/Prospect St and Mass Ave**

Dear Mayor and the Cambridge City Council,

We would like to express our enthusiastic support for the study results recommended by Susan Clippinger of Traffic, Parking & Transportation relative to pedestrian safety on Massachusetts Ave. These changes at the intersection with River St. include:

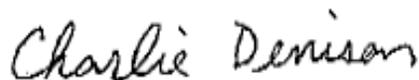
- Extending the duration of the Leading Pedestrian Interval for the crossing of Mass Ave from 3 seconds to 5 seconds.
- Changing the red and yellow arrow displays to solid balls as per the MUTCD.
- Converting the right lane at the Western Ave approach to right turn only with appropriate signage and pavement markings.

The safety of all users of Massachusetts Avenue in the Central Square area has improved enormously in the last decade in main part due to street designs that calm traffic and enhance pedestrian crossings. The changes Ms. Clippinger's study recommended will improve the safety for pedestrians even more by making pedestrians more visible and increasing the predictability of through traffic and right-turning traffic. We look forward to these changes and anticipate that the City will continue to monitor this intersection to ensure these adjustments are working as planned and to propose further adjustments if needed.

LivableStreets Alliance is a Cambridge-based transportation urban planning non-profit that educates and advocates for a system that better balances transit, walking, and biking with automobiles to make our City and the region more connected and livable.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter of support. Please don't hesitate to contact me for more information at (617) 621-1746 or [charlie@livablestreets.info](mailto:charlie@livablestreets.info).

Sincerely,



Charlie Denison  
Board Member, Director of Advocacy