

MEMO

To: Cambridge Planning Board
From: Cambridge Pedestrian/Bicycle/Transit Committees
Date: January 21, 2021
Re: Special Permit PB 371, 269-301 Vassar Street

We have reviewed the proponent's proposal and would like to submit the following comments for consideration by the Planning Board.

- We appreciate the open view of and connection to Fort Washington Park and the Cambridgeport neighborhood from this side of the railroad tracks.
- Given that the rest of the Vassar Street was developed by MIT and has served as a national model of how to create inclusive high quality streetscape design we would expect that this be continued in front of the newest MIT buildings, including a continuation of the raised cycle track as far along Vassar Street as practicable, and certainly the entire length of this project.
- The connection to the Grand Junction path and the tracks crossing is important for the network of facilities for people walking and cycling in this area, both for the residents of this and other MIT Dormitories and also for others who work and live in the area. The Central Plaza connection as shown seems quite cluttered, with planters and accoutrements presenting obstacles rather than an inviting passage. It is important for the safety and comfort for people both walking and cycling to have a clear and easy to understand way for people to traverse the space in an unobstructed way.
- Good lighting along the GJ side is important.

Thank you very much for your consideration.