

MEMO

To: Cambridge Planning Board
From: Cambridge Pedestrian/Bicycle/Transit Committees
Date: January 21, 2021
Re: Special Permit PB 370, 51 Vassar Street

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

- We are glad to see that the streetscape will be reconstructed with the high quality cycle track and sidewalk.
- 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, especially for people who work at the buildings here. The walking/cycling path from Vassar St. should be inviting, with appropriate amenities such as planting and seating, but not too narrow or cluttered.
- On Grand Junction Path side, the building face seems to present a blank concrete façade (as seen in the renderings). Given that this is also a public-facing side, it would be appreciated if some additional attention could be given towards enhancing it, e.g., with murals.
- More greenery on the GJP side would be nice, as would some public retail, e.g., a cafe, to activate the GJP side.
- Amenities for the GJP path, e.g., water fountains, benches, would be nice to have.
- Good lighting along the GJ side is important.

Thank you for your consideration.