

Riley, Kate

From: Jan Devereux [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:58 AM
To: Riley, Kate
Subject: Tobin VLUUS question/comment for meeting 7/29 (traffic questions)

Hi Kate,

I have some questions about traffic circulation for the Tobin VLUUS meeting on Wed 7/29.

The site design is already pretty far along without a traffic study and it seems that now the data for the study will have to be based on historical data since current vehicle counts are skewed by the pandemic. Is the assumption that post-Covid everyone will return to the old, car-dominated "normal" or is there anything we can do through design and policy to permanently shift people away from using private cars to come to school? Otherwise a larger school will mean bringing more traffic onto one-way residential streets throughout the day since the different school programs have different hours.

I remain very concerned about routing all vehicular traffic to and from the school onto Vassal Lane. Acquiring access to even a portion of the Armory site would make circulation through the site possible and enable the use of Concord Ave for some vehicles, reducing the burden on Vassal Lane, Lakeview and Standish. The majority of vehicles will use Lakeview and Standish to access Vassal, not the parkway, and to get to Lakeview and Standish many people will have to zig-zag through one-way residential streets to approach from Huron (a few may turn off the parkway onto Lexington to use Worthington to access Lakeview).

I note that now all vehicles entering and exiting the underground garage will use a new driveway near the Alpine St end of the site. This has the potential to create lines of cars trying to turn in or out of the garage driveway and to block others using Vassal including vehicles that are turning left onto Vassal to exit the bus/service/visitor driveway at the parkway end (this assumes maintaining the "no right turn" out of the bus/service driveway). Vassal is the designated bike route to Harvard Sq from the Fresh Pond bike paths and increasing car congestion on the street poses a conflict (there are no bike lanes on Vassal).

There's also the potential for conflict with cars coming out of Standish and Alpine St onto Vassal and with peds and bikes wanting to use the path on the Alpine side that connects Vassal and Concord and to access the playgrounds and fields. A new two-way driveway at this location might jeopardize one of the large mature trees along Vassal -- would you please confirm that the prior commitment still holds to preserve all the big trees along Vassal?

I also note that bikes and peds using the path through the site that connects the Fresh Pond side to the Concord Ave side would have to cross an active bus/service/visitor driveway *twice* -- this poses unnecessary safety risks.

Thank you,

Jan Devereux

