

**To: Erin Flaherty**  
Environmental Analyst  
Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office  
[Erin.flaherty@mass.gov](mailto:Erin.flaherty@mass.gov)  
c: (617) 874-0589

**SUBJECT: Alewife Park - Cambridge ENF  
Comment**

EEA NO.: 16473

Dear Erin Flaherty,

We are writing on behalf of Alewife Study Group, a community organization that has been actively engaged on issues related to this site since 1995. We are a group of local resident volunteers with no commercial ties to the site and an extensive track record of advocating for the community. Over the last year we have had numerous conversations with IQHQ about their plans. We have been impressed by their engagement with the community and the thoughtfulness with which they have approached this project, a welcome change from the previous site owner. We have reviewed their ENF filing and we want to offer our public support for their efforts, recognizing that there are many details which still need to be ironed out as a part of Cambridge's permitting process.

There is however one area of the project that we want to call to the attention of the MEPA Office and MassDOT - the Alewife Station Access Road vehicular tunnel that passes under Alewife Brook Parkway to the west of the IQHQ site and to the north of Alewife station. Under the Transportation Section of the ENF form under section II part C, it describes "potential implementation of a priority bus lane along the Alewife Access Road jug handle adjacent to the site". We have concerns about the feasibility of fitting two lanes of traffic

through that tunnel, based on the curved shape of the tunnel ceiling and the height of buses and trucks traveling through the tunnel.

Even if the dedicated bus lane started after the tunnel, we think that there is an important opportunity to improve bike and pedestrian connectivity through the tunnel, which would provide more climate-friendly transportation opportunities for the site and the community. This would complete a direct connection across the IQHQ site between Alewife Linear Park and the Somerville Community Path to the east, and the Minuteman Bikeway and Fitchburg Cutoff Path to the west. Greater connectivity for bikes and pedestrians through that tunnel has been raised as an area of interest during several of our public community meetings and aligns with the recommendations of local bike safety advocates.

If the tunnel were modified and enlarged to accommodate a dedicated bus lane, a standard traffic lane, and also connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists in both directions, we would be supportive.

Sincerely,  
*Lisa Birk*  
*Mike Nakagawa*  
*Joel Nogic*  
*Eppa Rixey*