

To the City of Cambridge Planning Board  
Hugh Russell, Chairman

I write as a resident of Cambridge and am asking you to deny SP #288 - the Special Permit application for 40 Thorndike Street. Even with the 40,000 sq. ft. reduction recently proposed by the developer and the use of less glass on facade, this project remains entirely inconsistent with the urban design plan of the neighborhood. The traffic generated by the usage intensity proposed by this oversized commercial development and the congestion created by truck deliveries on Second St., as well as the expected daily trips by over 2,000 vehicles, 450 pedestrians and 250 bicycles, to the site will create traffic and congestion that will cause a substantial change in the established neighborhood character.

East Cambridge is a quiet and safe residential neighborhood that is very family friendly. It has a unique historic quality with single lane streets and residential street parking for the many homes without driveways. There is discounted monthly resident parking available in the nearby First Street municipal garage, which is also used during overflow periods, snowstorms and street cleaning days. The increase in vehicular traffic and use of 420 garage spaces generated by this project will negatively impact the parking and traffic situation in the neighborhood. The increased noise and light pollution from the replacement of much of the structure with glass and increased mechanicals will also negatively affect the neighborhood.

The level of usage intensity from the proposed commercial office building, especially when considered in conjunction with the ongoing development in Kendall Square and North Point, prohibits a finding that the project will not have a substantial adverse impact on traffic in the area, which is necessary for the Special Permit to be granted. Additionally, the increased usage intensity, traffic, light, noise, and wind generated by this 470,000 sq. ft. commercial establishment, open nights and weekends, will be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the impacts from the existing building.

The Planning Board must deny #288.

Name

Address

Date: