



The General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House, Boston 02113-1053

May 9, 2022

Katie Lapp
Executive Vice President, Harvard University
evp@harvard.edu

RE: I-90/Allston Multimodal Decking

Dear Ms. Lapp,

It has come to my office's attention that Harvard University is committed to decking for air-rights development over the highway and rail yard as a part of the I-90/Allston Multimodal project.

As a part of the I-90 project, my constituents in Allston have long wanted to make our community whole again. As an environmental justice community with a vast expanse of highway that separates us from our neighbors and the Charles River, we seek to improve the livability and connectivity of our neighborhood dramatically. Allston residents have always advocated for decking over infrastructure to enhance the fabric of our neighborhood and increase access to the riverfront. We are encouraged by the conversations between the Commonwealth, the City of Boston, and Harvard to discuss how to finance the project to include decking that sets the foundation for sustainable, equitable future growth while improving mobility for all users.

While air rights development may not fully come to fruition for many years, a high-level development plan is necessary to design and construct the decking as part of the larger infrastructure project. Given the additional development that decking will unlock for Harvard, my constituents would like to know the University's intentions for air-rights development. Does the University have any plans regarding the type, size, and density of future development that they could reveal for community input and feedback?

While we believe that decking and air rights development can help knit the two sides of Allston back together, my constituents, in conjunction with the City of Boston, must be involved in the decision-making process for future air-rights development. We seek a comprehensive urban planning process rather than Harvard's current piecemeal approach, which is fragmented and opaque.

Through the Harvard Allston Task Force and neighborhood organizations like the Allston Civic Association (ACA) and the newly formed Coalition for a Just Allston Brighton (CJAB), my constituents have been clear that they envision an urban community that realizes Boston's most notable aspirations. Therefore, I would request that Harvard University, by way of the Harvard Allston Task Force, schedule an open, public meeting before the summer vacation season to inform the neighborhood of all pertinent updates and discussions Harvard has had with city and state officials related to air rights development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Moran".

Representative Michael J. Moran
Assistant Majority Leader
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
18TH SUFFOLK DISTRICT