

October 21, 2017

Hon. Jeffrey Sanchez
Room 243
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Hon. Liz Malia
Room 238
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Hon. Sonia Chang-Diaz
Room 111
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Representatives Sanchez and Malia and Senator Chang-Diaz:

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC), primarily through its Environment, Parks & Energy Committee (EPE) works to promote and protect open space in Jamaica Plain, raise awareness of green issues in Jamaica Plain and advises on neighborhood energy issues. Responsibilities of the committee include fostering community around parks and green space; networking with other existing organizations and programs related to maintaining and protecting open space and the environment; advocating for parks and open space and advising on matters related to environmental sustainability, protection and restoration.

We appreciate the work that DCR recently has done in Jamaica Plain: (a) posting 25 mph speed limit signs, (b) repaving the approach to Kelley Circle, (c) re-striping the crosswalk there, (d) repairing the fence between Arborway Road and the Arborway (across from the Arnold Arboretum) after it had been damaged by a motor vehicle, and, (e) moving forward with the improvements at the Parkman Drive/Perkins Street intersection, the first of the three projects entitled by DCR as "Improved Multi-Modal Safety & Access to Emerald Necklace Parks in Jamaica Plain".

Thank you for your support for these needed improvements. However, there is much more that needs to be done:

- Small projects such as repairing the stone wall that was our first community-based DCR Public-Private Partnership Project (The capstone is lying on the ground, and another piece has dropped out of place). The location of this historic stone wall is in the green island across from 200 Pond Street at the intersection of the Arborway and Prince Street.
- Medium-sized projects such as updating the raised cement islands by Murray Circle. They are in very rough shape, not ADA compliant and not user-friendly for pedestrians, baby carriages, bicycles etc. These cement islands are located across from 891 Centre Street (the old Boy Scout Building) at the end of Route 203/the Arborway as it approaches Centre Street and Murray Circle.
- Larger projects, such as completing the 2nd & 3rd phases of the 3-part DCR project, entitled "Improved Multi-Modal Safety & Access to Emerald Necklace Parks in Jamaica Plain":
 - (1) Parkman Drive/Perkins Street intersection, which is moving forward;
 - (2) The Arborway from the Eliot Street/Jamaicaway intersection to South Street at Forest Hills, including Kelley Circle and Murray Circle; and,
 - (3) Centre Street Corridor (Centre Street from the VFW Parkway to Murray Circle)

Drawings and information about these phases are on the DCR website at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/public-outreach/public-meetings/2015/material-from-past-2015-meetings.html>

under "Materials from Past Meetings" in backwards chronological order. (The dates for the two projects that need funding to move forward are 10/14/15: Arborway 10/7/15: Centre Street.)

The Centre Street Corridor and the Eliot Street to South Street phases have been stalled since the fall of 2015 for lack of funding.

DCR's budget has been cut significantly in the past decade, and many long-term staff have retired within the past few years, leaving the agency under-funded and short-staffed. Under these conditions, it is impossible for DCR to be as responsive as it should be.

The JPNC, on behalf of all Jamaica Plain residents and voters, asks for your help with these projects, which, if not completed, jeopardize public safety in our community. We ask for your help in obtaining the funding necessary to bring these needed projects to completion as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin F. Moloney', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin F. Moloney, Chair

cc: Council members