

From: Peter Lowitt

Date: March 18, 2022 at 9:48:00 AM EDT

To: BFRTAC@concord.ma.gov

Subject: junction Park Comments

I want to thank the committee for its diligent work to balance the competing interests and make Junction Park usable for both pedestrians and bikers. Below are my comments on the various proposals:

Short term #1: to address the concern that the short term fix becomes a permanent one, I suggest the use of paint and a bike stencil to differentiate the bike path from the pedestrian area (these will degrade over time, requiring revisiting the issue of a permanent fix). The Dezipline products would likely pose a liability and trip hazard; they appear to be a tool designed to separate bikes from vehicles. I like the use of visual barriers to discourage the cut through across the rails to the north. This later comment applies to all of the proposals.

Long Term #2: This entails a partial platform over the bio retention basin. Shade can adversely impact plant growth. The plants and soil mixture cleans the stormwater which is directed into the basin. I object to this proposal because of its potential for an adverse impact on bio retention basin.

Long Term #3: This is my preferred alternative. As with alternative 2 it involves negotiating with the MBTA. I suggest making the access one way (north and around the back of Woods Hill) with angled parking to minimize the loss of spaces. I also suggest negotiating with Woods Hill Table to allow an easement over the Northeast corner of their property (if needed). Allowing permanent outdoor tables in the easterly parking area would be a suggested negotiating position.

Long Term #4: Relocating (DESTROYING) the bio retention basin is a waste of tax payers funds and a symbolic renunciation of Concord's Sustainability efforts. We need to assure that bikers and pedestrians needs can be balanced and this is NOT the solution that does so.

Long Term #5: This is a reasonable alternative. It would be easier to evaluate if the topo/elevations were included on the map. Keeping a gap to allow east west traffic through the park is a good idea.

Long term # 6: Another reasonable alternative. See comment about elevations.

Long Term #7: I prefer having the bikers take the loop to the east and keeping the pedestrian path where it is. This also appears to encroach on the bioretention area.

THREE is my preferred alternative.