

## Riley, Kate

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**From:** Gianetti, Lee  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 16, 2020 12:23 PM  
**To:** DePasquale, Louie; Peterson, Lisa; Riley, Kate  
**Cc:** Carvello, Maryellen; Cooper, Stacey  
**Subject:** Fwd: Tobin Vassal Land School Planning

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**From:** Alison Field-Juma [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 16, 2020 10:15:14 AM  
**To:** Senator Pat Jehlen <pat@electpatjehlen.org>; Jonathan.Hecht@mahouse.gov <Jonathan.Hecht@mahouse.gov>;  
City Manager <CityManager@CambridgeMA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Tobin Vassal Land School Planning

Dear Senator Jehlen, Representative Hecht, and City Manager DePasquale,

I am writing regarding the design of the proposed Tobin Vassal Lane School on Concord Ave./Vassal Lane in Cambridge. I live on Concord Ave. and see personally how congested the road is during rush hour. It is actually no wider than the side streets, like Chilton St. (I have measured it). It only seems like an "Avenue" due to parking only allowed on one side, and yet it attempts to accommodate a huge volume of through traffic, including large trucks and busses, all on one lane in each direction. Forget biking on it.

Having looked at the proposed designs for the new Tobin School and large increase in building mass, programming and population proposed, I think there are only two ways forward. Either reduce the proposed number of programs and buildings (and hence people and cars), or acquire (e.g., through long-term lease) a significant part of the Armory site next door. Part of the Armory site is already being leased, I understand, for the school construction equipment. Whichever solution is picked, please recognize that a tailback on Concord Ave. in either direction will be disastrous, particularly if it extends into the "Sozio" rotary, and a key feeder bus line to/from Belmont and Arlington (#74 and #78) would be immobilized.

Traffic aside, the open green space of the Tobin site has served a very important function for the children at the school and surrounding neighborhoods. All children have improved learning outcomes and long-term health when afforded time each day outside in vigorous physical activity during the school day, preferably in some sort of contact with nature. This requires open green space. It is important to remember that many of the children attending Tobin come from low-income residential areas and may not be able to access expensive (in time or money) afterschool recreation.

Thank you for your attention to this critical facet of the Tobin School planning.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Field-Juma  
[redacted]

Cambridge MA