



November 24, 2020

Councilor Michelle Wu, Chair

Committee on Planning, Development & Transportation  
Boston City Council  
One City Hall Square 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
Via Email: [ccc.plandev@boston.gov](mailto:ccc.plandev@boston.gov) and [cora.montrond@boston.gov](mailto:cora.montrond@boston.gov)

**RE: Docket # 0984; Melnea Cass Boulevard Design Project**

Dear Councilor Wu and Members of the Committee on Planning, Development & Transportation:

I am writing to express Mass Audubon's serious concerns regarding the proposed removal of more than 124 trees along the Melnea Cass Boulevard. Given the many developments within the City of Boston, we are noticing an increasing trend of removing older trees and justifying it by planting new, smaller trees.

The benefits of mature trees are extensive and not replaceable in any meaningful time frame. Trees enhance our urban neighborhoods by improving our mental and physical health, producing oxygen, and capturing carbon (helping to mitigate the effects of climate change). They clean our air, capture stormwater, and provide cooling to address the urban heat islands. Of course, they also raise the overall market value of homes and more generally communities. It is unfortunate that these values are not considered in the development of new projects. This needs to change – consistent with the Climate Ready Boston plans and to provide equity in quality of life for all neighborhoods in the City.

*Mass Audubon fully supports the Friends of Melnea Cass Boulevard and their tireless efforts to save these trees for the enjoyment and pleasure of their neighborhood for generations to come.*

Thank you for your careful attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Anne and Peter Brooke Director