

Memorandum:

To: Arlington Redevelopment Board, Kevin O'Brien

From: Transportation Advisory Committee

Subject: Review of Referenced Traffic Study

Date: 2 January 2004

Reference: "Traffic Impact Study: Lowell Street Apartments, Arlington MA, December 2003" prepared by: BSC Group.

We have reviewed the referenced report and visited the site, and have the following comments and recommendations.

1. Traffic volume generated by this project will have a small impact on Downing Square.
2. Vehicle access via Lowell St will be safer than via Park Avenue for the following reasons:
 - a. Traffic volumes on Lowell Street are less by a factor of about 3:1, both for current and projected 2008 data. See table below.

2008 projections	AM	PM
Lowell Street	351	417
Park Avenue	1134	1104

(numbers are for both directions)

- b. Downing Square is a complicated intersection, currently under study. Access to Lowell Apartments via Park Ave, will increase this complexity.
 - (1) Left turns from the site onto Park Avenue could adversely impact safety at this 6-way intersection, an intersection that has already seen a significant number of vehicular and pedestrian crashes.
 - (2) Motorists waiting to turn left from the site onto Park Avenue could block the sidewalk along Park Avenue, encouraging pedestrians to use the east side of Park Avenue, which has no sidewalk and recent pedestrian crashes

3. Recommendations:

For the safety of the apartment residents, other drivers and pedestrians, we strongly recommend the following:

- a. Primary access to the site should be provided via Lowell Street rather than Park Ave. The current "fire lane" along the westerly edge of the property should be widened to become the primary access.
- b. Park Ave access should primarily be for pedestrian and emergency access, although it might be permissible to allow right turns. The lane should be narrowed and posted to permit right turns only. Furthermore, the Park Avenue access should be aligned so as to discourage left turns.

Edward Starr
 Chair – Transportation Advisory Committee