



## **TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

7 Twin Circle Drive, Arlington, MA 02474

February 14, 2008

**ATTACHMENT #**\_\_\_

Brona Simon, Executive Director & Deputy SHPO  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Simon:

The Transportation Advisory Committee of Arlington is writing you about our concerns for the stone wall on the northern side of the Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden. The wall in question borders Mass Avenue by the Town Hall and the Robbins Library. This wall is in serious disrepair, partially due to activities during the rebuilding of the Library, and the possibility of collapse in extreme weather is real. A registered engineer, Beth Nathan of Structures North, examined the wall and re-confirmed the condition found earlier by a registered landscape architect. In a letter dated 19 February 2007, "*Due to the rate of movement of the wall, we believe that there is an ever-increasing risk of its collapse onto the sidewalk. We recommend that it is dismantled and rebuilt during the coming construction season*", which would have been the summer of 2007. We are concerned for public safety of users of the adjacent sidewalk if this is not repaired soon.

The wall in question is adjacent to a heavily-used sidewalk on the south side of Mass Avenue (our main commercial thoroughfare) in the center of Arlington. In addition to the commercial pedestrian traffic, those going to the Government offices in Town Hall or to the Library are major users of this brick sidewalk (which is in itself in disrepair). During the Town's Annual Town Day in September, booths line the curb along this sidewalk and hundreds of pedestrians use the walkway on this single day. We are concerned about the safety of users of this sidewalk.

The Transportation Advisory Committee is appointed by the Board of Selectmen and consists of 9 citizen members and a member each of the Police Department, Public Works, and Planning. Our role is to advise the Selectmen on issues that impact safety, mobility, and the quality of life in Arlington.

We urge you to seriously consider the referenced grant request for reasons of public safety and mobility. Approval of this letter has been voted unanimously by the TAC on 13 February 2008.

Sincerely,

Edward Starr  
Chair – Transportation Advisory Committee

**Transportation Advisory Committee Members:**

Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jean Clark, Lt. Paul Conroy, Susan Doctrow, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise,  
Michael Rademacher, Scott Smith, Edward Starr, and Laura Wiener

**Web site; [www.tac.arlington.ma.us/](http://www.tac.arlington.ma.us/)**