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To: Maureen Valente and the Sudbury Board of Selectmen,

On behalf of the First Parish of Sudbury, I am writing with regard to the Town Center project.

First, I want to thank you for your letter dated January 17, 2007 and all the efforts from The Town in working closely together. We appreciate the commitment from the Town that further discussions with First Parish will occur after the survey is complete but before any final decisions are made on the eventual configuration of Concord Road and the Town Common, assuming that the alternative affects land owned by us. This confirms our understanding of the timeline before us.

First Parish started discussions with the Town Committee in October 2006, and the SCIAC has been helpful and responsive to the suggestions and ideas from First Parish. We look forward to continuing such positive and deliberate discussions.

As vested property owner and partner with the Town, First Parish held a special congregational meeting on January 21, 2007 in accordance with its bylaws. Our goal was to determine the level of support for the project in a non-binding set of votes.

There were nearly 45 members present to vote on the questions below.

“To approve the Town obtaining a survey of the land in question, such survey to include elevations; provided however, that the survey shall not be deemed binding on First Parish.” was voted on and passed by a count of 39 in favor, 3 against and 1 abstention.

“The First Parish of Sudbury is willing to consider conveying land to the Town of Sudbury for changes that may be proposed to Concord Road, Hudson Road and Old Sudbury Road.” was voted on and passed by a vote of 28 in favor, 10 opposed and no abstentions.

“Based on current understandings, First Parish is willing to convey enough property to the Town of Sudbury to make a right turn lane southbound on Concord Road.” Results were as follows: 4 in favor, 23 opposed and 12 abstentions.

We can conclude from these results that while First Parish is in support of doing the survey with elevations, and moving to that next step, and is potentially willing to convey some land for the eventual design in the interest of improving safety, there is strong opposition to an additional southbound lane on Concord Rd.

We look forward to continuing our joint stewardship in this historic area.

Regards,

Stephen Johnson
Chair - First Parish of Sudbury Trustees