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Date: Thu, 09 May 2019 15:44:07 -0400
Subject: Re: 2019 Arlington Alive Summer Arts Block Party Proposal

In previous discussions I know that I told Leland that the Police Department does not support closing a major street like Medford for a block party. It's actually in the block party guidelines that major streets would not be closed for such types of events. From speaking with some of my supervisors again I do not think our stance has changed on this matter. Medford Street and Park Terrace are both one-ways and just shutting down one section of Medford still leaves no access to the entire road. We feel his plans to try and allow abutting traffic (to include vehicles coming and going to bring equipment for performances) up the one way from Chestnut across a state road (Route 60 - that would already be engulfed by detoured traffic) and then around traffic islands designed to channel traffic in a way to prevent vehicles from mistakenly going the wrong direction, are entirely unsafe.

Also, we would now need to find an additional location for another bus terminus/layover (MBTA 80). We already had issues with the T with finding and moving the 87 bus terminus out of Broadway Plaza to a suitable location for the original Arlington Alive event. The T agreed to that move onto Mass Ave because it would be able to turn around on Medford Street and come back up Mystic with only minor delays. Without Medford Street to turn down, I don't think they'd be happy with a delay that would either take the bus down to Mill to turn back around nor can we really expect to have buses navigating down the narrow streets in East Arlington connecting Warren back to Broadway in order to get back on its route.

Finally, we must not forget that all of this is proposed to happen at the same time that the Board has already approved the Aeronaut Beer Garden, which will be in full swing and already bringing an influx of traffic just one block away. There wasn't an Arlington Alive festival last year when the beer garden started so there was no conflict (and I'm sure Arlington Alive starting up again was probably not considered when Aeronaut's licenses were granted).

We might be able to accommodate both the beer garden and the Arlington Alive festival with just the closure of Broadway Plaza but adding in a closure of Medford Street with redirections against one-way streets would, in my opinion, pose too many unsafe and logistical problems.

Regards,
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