

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Traffic, Parking and Transportation
57 Inman Street,
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Susan E. Clippinger
Director

Administration 349-4700
Parking Violations 349-4705
Resident Parking 349-4701

TO: Robert Healy, City Manager

FROM: Susan E. Clippinger, Director 

SUBJECT: Council Order #109 dated 9/14/98

RE: Report on creating "Senior Safety Zones"

The City of Malden went to the Legislature for legislation that will enable them to create "Senior Safety Zones". The legislation is a home rule petition. Malden is working with the Mass. Highway Department to determine what criteria there are for the signing of the area. They expect to install something in the spring.

The City of Dracut has also established a ½ mile zone on Monmouth Road which used to be the main road from Massachusetts to New Hampshire. They petitioned the State Legislature for permission to create the zone. The purpose of their program is to slow cars to make it safer for vehicles turning onto or off Monmouth Road. There are few pedestrians and no crosswalks in the area. The ½ mile section has two elderly houses and a senior drop in center on one side of the road. On the opposite side of the road there are no buildings, no driveways and no sidewalk. Accidents in the area are low at approximately two per year. The speed limit in the zone and along the whole road is 35 MPH. At each end of the zone the city installed a 14' high pole with a 6-8' mast arm on which they installed flashing yellow lights and a sign that says Senior Safety Zone. The cost was \$26,000 - \$28,000.

A program like these is not appropriate for the City of Cambridge. The city has several programs in place to respond to safety issues that are more appropriate for an urban environment and have been shown to have a more significant benefit for seniors. In Cambridge, seniors live throughout the city and travel to locations throughout the city. By working to reduce vehicle speeds and increase pedestrian facilities and safety, we are creating a city that supports the mobility needs of seniors wherever they live and benefits these who are not yet seniors as well. The city's programs include:

Signal improvements - shorter wait times for pedestrians and increase the time they have to cross.

Crosswalks - highly visible pavement markings, additional locations, curb extensions or other physical changes to shorten the crossing distance.

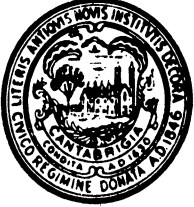
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
JAN - 8 AM 9:16
349-4701

Reduce vehicle speeds - traffic calming, enforcement, reduced speed limits.

The city has made safety improvements for seniors at several locations. These are improvements which benefit all pedestrians not just the seniors. These include adding the crosswalk on the west side of Mass. Ave. at Inman to serve the senior Center. The installation of a pedestrian signal for the Miller River Apartments. Audible signals at Mass. and Cameron and Mass. and Churchill to assist visually impaired pedestrians.

The city is designing additional changes to further support the needs of the elderly. These include redesign of the crossing at Green and Magazine, relocation of the bus stop in front of City Hall back to Inman Street, and designing changes for North Mass. Ave., Cambridge Street, Lafayette Square and Mass. Ave. from Central Square to the River to make the pedestrian environment safe and welcoming.

The Department welcomes the opportunity to work with seniors to address concerns they have in particular areas. We have been meeting with interested people at the Senior Center at the Manning Apartments and will continue these efforts.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307



2.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

January 25, 1999

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 3, regarding a report on creating "Senior Safety Zones," received from Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #2 8-51



Relative to AR #3 regarding
a report on creating
"Senior Safety Zones"

In City Council January 25, 1999

PLACED ON FILE