R. H. RUSSELL

CITY CLERK
1994 JUN 14 AM 10:14
CAMBRIDGE, MA.

June 6, 1994

Ross B. Dindio,
Chief Engineer
Massachusetts Highway Department
Ten Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

RE: Bicycle Lanes on Mass. Ave. in Cambridge

Dear Mr. Dindio:

I am writing this brief letter to voice my strong support for the state Highway Department's plans to construct and delineate bicycle lanes along Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge, from Main Street to the Charles River. As a Cambridge resident who cycles to work nearly every day (35 days since April 1 of this year, so far), I appreciate both the benefits as well as some of the risks of city cycling.

Cycling dramatically reduces air pollution, particularly when you compare it with one of the most popular commuting options--single occupancy driving. It's also great exercise (I've already lost 10 pounds as a result of my daily 13-mile round-trip). But cycling can be dangerous, particularly on Boston's unruly streets. And many potential cycle commuters are reluctant to join the fray. That's why bike lanes are so important.

Finally, I hope you will view bicycle lanes as part of a broader strategy, one that encourages people to choose methods of transportation that are as environmentally benign as possible. Hence, while some may complain that the proposed bike lanes will eliminate parking spaces, even if true the elimination of parking is consistent with encouraging the use of mass transit alternatives that are far cleaner than the way most people drive--alone.

In closing, I urge you and the Mass. Highway Department to lend your strong support to this project. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Very truly yours,

Robert H. Russell

142 GARDEN STREET CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138 [617] 491-3433

Consent Comm. # 15 H-78

Comm. from Robert H. Russell, 142 Garden Street, in support for the bike lanes along Mass. Ave.

In City Council,

June 20, 1994

Placed on file