



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Mr. James L. Sullivan, City Manager

Date March 9, 1977

From *H. Teso*
Mr. George Teso, Traffic Director

Reference

Subject City Council Order #6 of Feb. 2, 1977 Survey of Western Ave. and River St.

I have completed an investigation into the feasibility of making both Western Avenue and River Street two way streets and have determined that it would not be in the best interests of the City of Cambridge to convert these streets for the following reasons:

1. The reasons that these streets were made one way was that with the opening of the Mass. Turnpike Extension to Allston Mass. and the traffic congestion on Memorial Drive, Western Avenue and River Street became highly traveled and traffic began to back up on Western Avenue from Memorial Drive to Central Square and on River Street from Central Square to Memorial Drive.

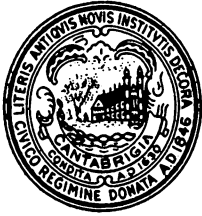
This congestion not only created serious problems on all the side streets in this area but also caused a lot of serious accidents including pedestrians. A study was made of this area at that time and the only solution was to set up a one way system that would eliminate congestion and make these streets safer to cross. This one way system has solved most of the problems in this area as can be seen by the small amount of congestion and the reduction in the accident frequency, but at the same time this system has created a problem for some of the residents who must go out of their way to get home.

2. The second major reason for not making these streets two way is that we would have to redesign Central Square to accommodate two way traffic and not only would this create a very serious traffic problem but the estimated cost of this would be approximately \$200,000.00. This cost does not include the redesigning of the other controlled intersections on these streets.

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3. The third reason for not making these streets two ways is that parking would have to be eliminated on one side of Western Avenue to accommodate two way traffic and with parking at a minimum in this area it would create a serious parking problem for the residents.
4. The final reasons for not converting these streets is that with these streets two way the anticipated congestion would force motor vehicles to find shortcuts through the side streets which are residential creating a serious accident hazard to children crossing as well as parked cars.

I have discussed this proposal with officials of the fire department, police department and public works department and it is our opinion that these streets should be left one way as they do allow for the easiest movement of emergency vehicles.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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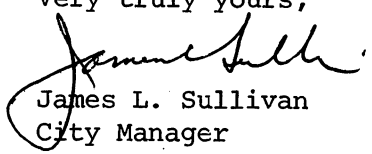
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

March 14, 1977

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With reference to Awaiting Report Item No. 12, City Council Order No. 6 of February 2, 1977, I transmit herewith self-explanatory communication from George Teso, Director of Traffic and Parking, relative to the survey of Western Avenue and River Street.

Very truly yours,


James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/b

Agenda #18

5-125

Re: to Awaiting Report Item No. 12, re: survey
of Western Avenue and River Streets.

In City Council,
March 14, 1977

3/14/77

Placed on File