

INTERIM REPORT MID-CAMBRIDGE TRAFFIC STUDY

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood lies in the middle of the City surrounded by commercial and office centers at Harvard Square, Central Square, Kendall Square, East Cambridge and Union Square in Somerville. As a result, the neighborhood is transversed by large volumes of traffic in both the north/south and east/west directions. The major traffic arteries carrying this traffic are Broadway, Cambridge Street, Hampshire Street and Prospect Street. Table 1 shows the average daily traffic for these roads in 1972 and 1981. With the exception of the western end of Broadway and Cambridge Street, which showed a 28 percent increase, traffic on these streets remained relatively constant over the nine year period. Some of the increase on Cambridge Street and Broadway was the result of construction in Harvard Square but how much can not be determined.

Traffic volumes on local streets in the neighborhood are less than 4,000 ADT except for Inman Street, Irving Street and Trowbridge Street. Inman Street (4,800 ADT at Mass. Ave.) functions with Prospect Street to provide a second southbound traffic lane for the heavy north/south traffic movement through the neighborhood and the city as a whole. This arrangement is important especially in regard to left turns onto Massachusetts Avenue which are prohibited on Prospect Street at Central Square. To allow left turns at Central Square would result in congestion which would force through traffic to use local streets. The larger volumes on Irving Street (4,500 ADT) and Trowbridge Street (5,000 ADT) are probably due in part as a result of access to the high school. Overall, local streets in the mid-Cambridge neighborhood do not seem to be severely impacted by large traffic volumes.

PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

With the addition of new development in Harvard Square, Central Square, Kendall Square and East Cambridge, traffic volumes in Mid-Cambridge will increase in the future. How much and at what rate will depend upon the rate and location of this development. The Environmental Impact statement/report for the East Cambridge Project which included the volumes from the Kendall Square project, forecasts an increase in the combined ADT volumes for Broadway and Hampshire Street from the present 16,400 to 20,200, an increase of 23% over the next 20 years. The challenge to the City is to find ways to keep this traffic increase on the major traffic arteries and off of local streets. The most important aspect of this effort will be the installation within the next five years, of a new computerized signal system in the eastern half of the City which will decrease the traffic congestion on the major traffic arteries. Combined with this will be a stepped up enforcement effort to keep all traffic lanes open

particularly at the high volume intersections. In addition, the City will continue to seek ways of improving traffic flow such as working with the City of Somerville to make Springfield Street one way towards Union Square. This change would enable more signal green time to be available for Hampshire Street and Cambridge Street and disrupt the current traffic pattern moving from Springfield Street to Inman Street.

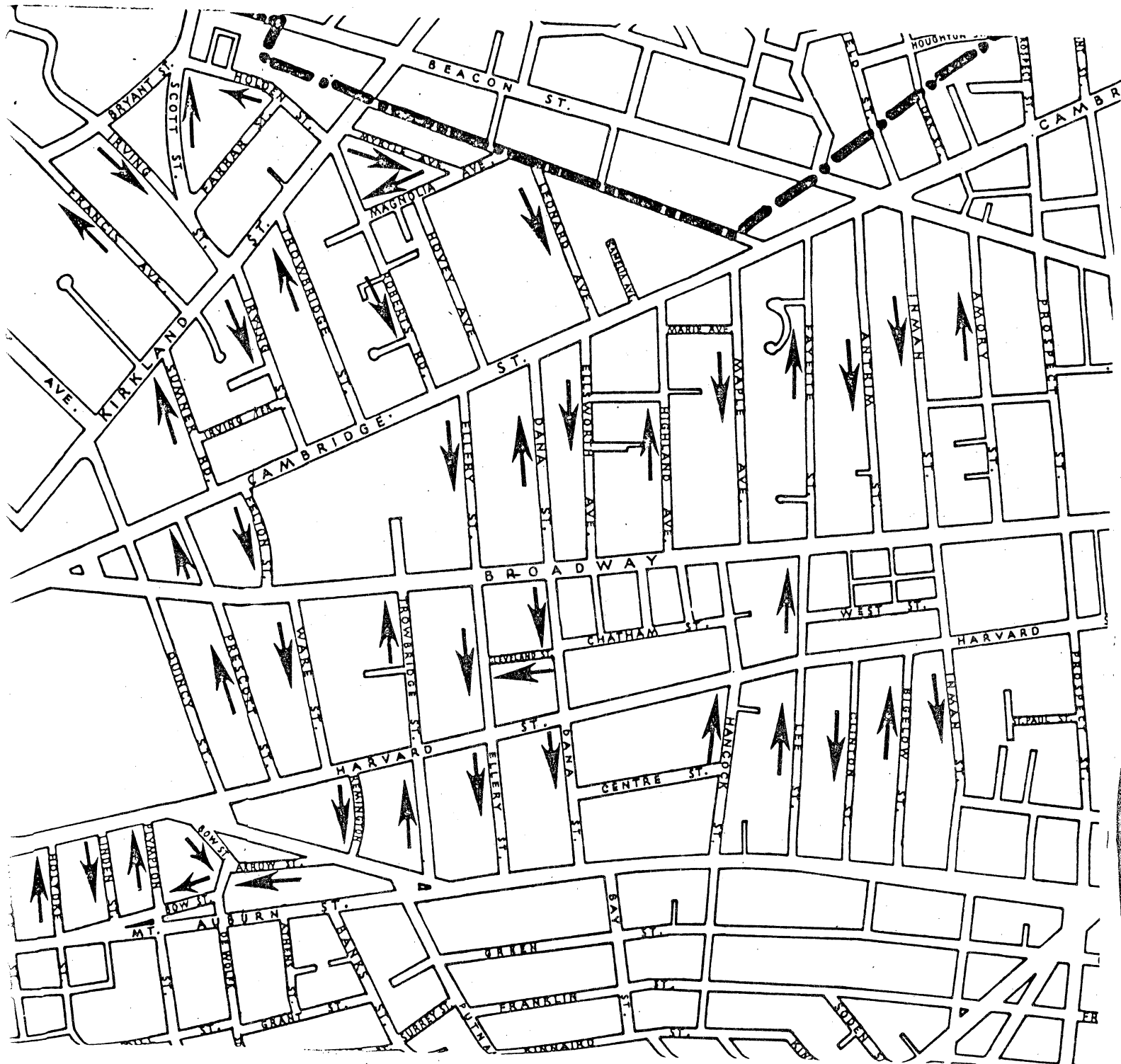
As development takes place in the City, the Traffic Department will continue to monitor volumes on local streets to ensure that the residential neighborhood is not severely impacted in the future.

TABLE I

GROWTH IN TRAFFIC FROM 1972 TO 1981 ON MAJOR STREETS

STREET	1972 ADT	1981 ADT
Broadway @ Felton	12,400	15,900
Broadway @ Portland	9,100	8,800
Cambridge @ Sumner	9,600	12,300
Cambridge @ First	10,400	11,050
Hampshire @ Somerville Line		18,700
Hampshire @ Portland	8,800	7,600
Prospect @ Somerville Line	12,700	12,100
Prospect @ Mass. Ave.	17,300	19,800

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT OF TRAFFIC & PARKING
ONE WAY STREETS
MID-CAMBRIDGE
OCTOBER 1983



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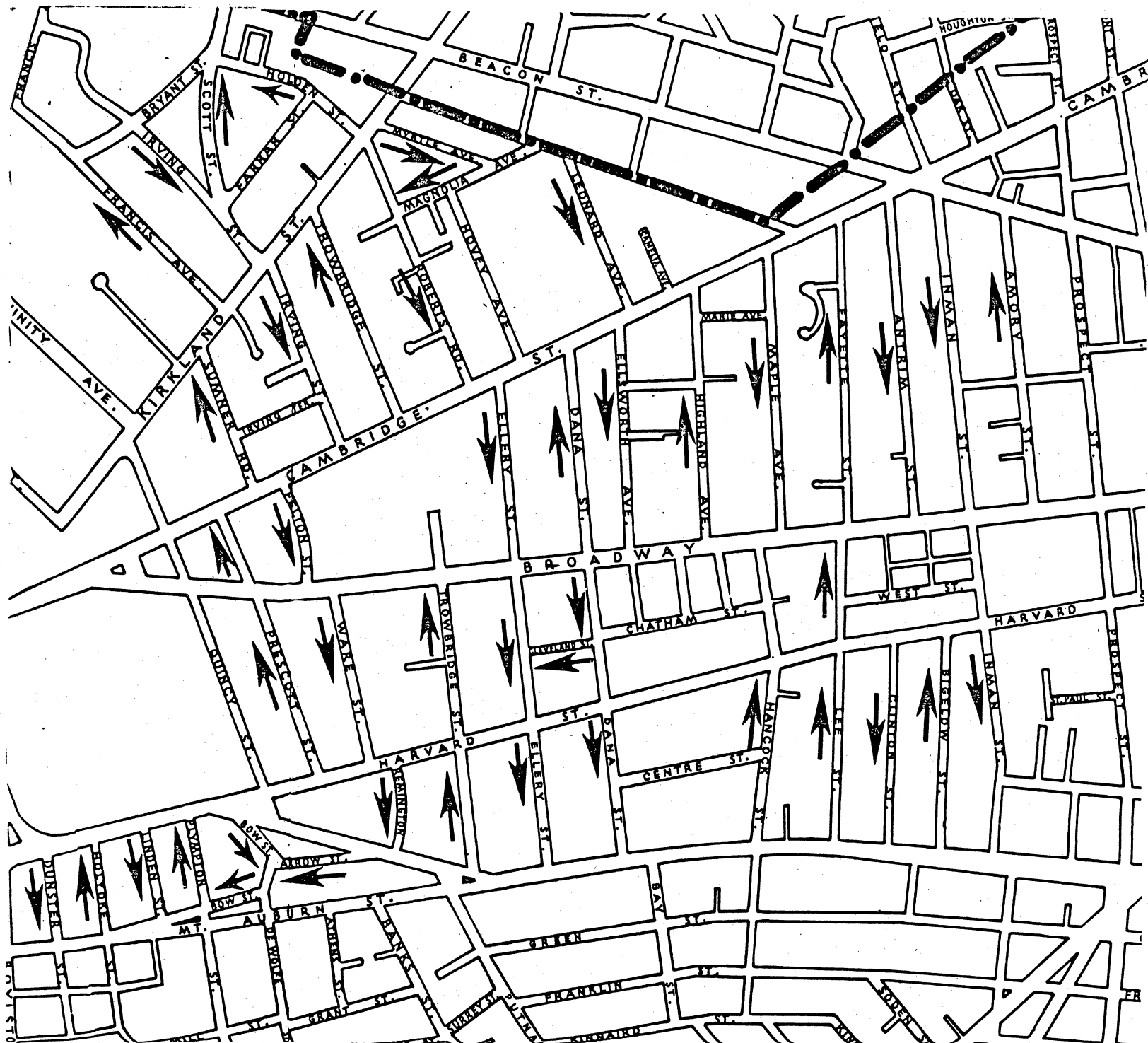
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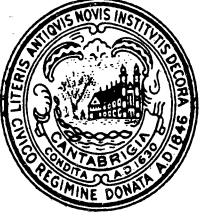
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OCTOBER 1983





CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

October 31, 1983

To the Honorable, the City Council:

As per request of City Council, enclosed please find copy of
an interim report from the Traffic and Community Development Depart-
ments relative to a mid-Cambridge traffic study.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

Agenda Item Number Three

S-607

Re: interim report from the Traffic and
Community Development Dept.'s regarding a
Mid-Cambridge traffic study.

In City Council,

October 31, 1983

10/31/83

Placed
on
File-