

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council March 25, 2002

Manager's Consent Agenda

YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT	
✓				Vice Mayor Henrietta Davis
✓				Ms. Marjorie C. Decker
✓				Mr. Anthony D. Galluccio
✓				Mr. David P. Maher
✓				Mr. Brian Murphy
✓				Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves
✓				Ms. Denise Simmons
✓				Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
✓				Mayor Michael A. Sullivan

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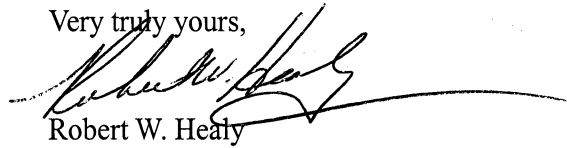
Green Street at Magazine Street and River Road at Western Avenue

Many drivers are ignoring the stop sign on the westbound approach of Green Street at Magazine Street, especially when the light just ahead at River Street is green. This endangers people crossing Green Street using the raised crosswalk who are expecting all cars to stop. Generally, stop control close to a signalized intersection is not advisable for this very reason.

Staff has determined that in order to substantially improve safety at this crosswalk, any solution will require a significant change in traffic control and must be studied carefully. We will be collecting data at this location, including pedestrian and vehicle volumes and yield counts. This will help us determine what changes in traffic control, if any, are appropriate.

In closing, we will continue to work with the neighborhoods in these three locations to create safer intersections. We always welcome their comments.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert W. Healy', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager



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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

March 25, 2002

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 02-10, regarding a report on traffic signals at Brookline Street and Massachusetts Avenue; Walden Street and Massachusetts Avenue, and at the intersection of Green/Western/River Street, Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger reports the following:

In response to a City Council Order dated February 11, 2002, Traffic Engineering staff has completed an investigation of conditions at the following locations:

- Brookline Street at Massachusetts Avenue
- Walden Street at Massachusetts Avenue
- Green Street at Magazine Street and Western Avenue at River Street

Our findings are as follows:

Brookline Street at Massachusetts Avenue

Pedestrians crossing Massachusetts Avenue see a 'walk' indication concurrently with the Brookline Street northbound movements. Since this is an offset intersection, vehicles continuing north from Brookline Street onto Douglass Street must cross this crosswalk along with the vehicles turning right onto Massachusetts Avenue. These two movements conflict with the pedestrian movement. In order to provide more protection for the pedestrians crossing Massachusetts Avenue, we will increase the Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI, the "head start" given to the pedestrian before the parallel vehicle interval turns green) from 3 seconds to 5 seconds.

Walden Street at Massachusetts Avenue

Vehicles turning right from Massachusetts Avenue eastbound and left from Massachusetts Avenue westbound cross the crosswalk across Walden Street, often faster than is comfortable for the pedestrians. We have already made two improvements at this location. The LPI for the Walden crossing has been increased from 3 seconds to 5 seconds and a parking space on Massachusetts Avenue on the southwest corner of the intersection has been removed to improve the sightline around the corner. We will also be making one additional improvement. The Westbound Massachusetts Avenue approach will be restriped to add an exclusive left turn lane. This will separate the vehicles turning left from those going straight, which now share the left-hand lane. Under this configuration the intersection will operate more efficiently and motorists turning left will be less likely to make risky turns across the Walden crosswalk.

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Consent Agenda #9

**Awaiting Report Item
Number 02-10**, regarding a
report on traffic signals at
Brookline Street and
Massachusetts Avenue,
Walden Street and
Massachusetts Avenue, and
at the intersection of
Green/Western/River Streets.

In City Council March 25, 2002

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