

The committee heard from Bill Joyce, 24 Essex Street, who suggested that the City of Cambridge should imitate Belmont Center. Cars, he stated, are not allowed to move if there are pedestrians waiting to cross the street. Pedestrians have the right of way and it is strictly enforced, he said.

The committee heard from Ruth Wolf, resident of the Churchill Apartments, who informed the committee that while construction is underway at Massachusetts Avenue and Churchill Avenue the sidewalks are blocked. Pedestrians, she said, have to walk out onto the street. Councillor Davis urged the residents to report the blocked sidewalks to either the Police Department or the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department.

At this time Ms. Chaiken informed the committee that the deliveries made to the new Buck-A-Book store on Massachusetts Avenue are made on Temple Street. She suggested limiting the size of the delivery truck that can travel on Temple Street.

The committee heard from Kenneth Bowles, 40 Bigelow Street, who stated that as a disabled pedestrian the big word is "ENFORCEMENT". He feels that the Police Department does not put a high priority on enforcement of traffic regulations. He informed the committee that police cars straddle the crosswalks. This is in violation of the law, he said. Pedestrians, he said, are placing themselves at risk by crossing the street when cars are straddling the pedestrian crosswalks. Councillor Davis stated that behavior and enforcement are issues that need to be addressed. Mr. Bowles stated that other cities have strict visibility and enforcement. He asked why Cambridge cannot have the same visibility and enforcement.

The committee heard from Lynn Swift, who stated that the crosswalk white lines have faded. They should be repainted. She stated that the City has walk lights that do not work. She suggested that the City should check the walk light at Prospect Street and Massachusetts Avenue and the lights in Harvard Square to insure that they are in working condition. She would also like a courtesy placard for bicyclists as well as motorists.

The committee heard from Sue Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation, who stated that the pavement markings are the worst, they have ever been. She stated that a private vendor does some of the markings and city staff does some. She informed the committee that the contract with the vendor was cancelled and it was not resolved before the inclement weather. The repainting of the markings will continue in the spring, she said. She urged the general public to notify the City of any malfunctioning lights by calling Dave Bryant at 349-4715. She stated that this telephone number is operational twenty-four hours a day.

The committee heard from Arvilla Sarazen, 15 Lambert Street, who stated that all parties concerned agree on enforcement. She stated that a petition was signed by seniors to file a home rule petition to have a \$100.00 fine for traffic violations. Councillor Davis asked Ms. Sarazen to provide the committee with a copy of this home rule petition. She again urged signs at underground garage locations notifying pedestrians that cars are approaching from the underground garages. She complained about the traffic light on Prospect Street that has a green light while the walk light is active. She asked if the federal government gives money to the state for using the Right on Red Traffic Regulation. Ms. Clippinger stated that the City is under no obligation to use the Right on Red Traffic Regulation. She asked why parking was allowed on some parts of Green Street and not on other parts of the street. Councillor Davis asked Ms. Clippinger to address the issue of trucks parked on the sidewalk on Green Street, on the City Foods side of the street.

The committee heard from Laurie Haverman, Senior Center Bus Driver, who registered her opposition to the green light with an active walk signal on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Inman Street.

The committee heard from Leroy Cragwell who asked if there is a No Jay Walking regulation. Councillor Davis stated that there is a \$1.00 fine for jay walking. Mr. Cragwell asked if there is any record of how many tickets were issued for jay walking. He stated that if a law does not make sense, what can a driver do about jay walkers. He suggested a public information brochure that outlines all of the laws relating to traffic, pedestrians and bicycling. Councillor Davis stated that there is a lot of misinformation about the rules. Ms. Rosalie Anders, Pedestrian Project Coordinator, Community Development Department, stated that the City will be doing a postcard mailing in the Spring because there is a lot of misinformation about who has the right of way at intersections. Mr. Cragwell suggested a public information skit be done on cable television. The committee thought this suggestion was a great idea.

At this time Councillor Russell stated that pedestrians run out in front of cars in the snow. Drivers, she said, are not able to stop in the snow or when the ground is icy.

The committee heard from Bill Cobham, Fayerweather Street, who stated that there is a need for education of both pedestrians and motorists. He informed the committee that he has been jay walking in this area for years. He urged enforcement of traffic laws for double-parked automobiles and automobiles parked at bus stops. Illegal parking is ridiculous, he said. He cited Concord Avenue, Walden Street and Huron Avenue as areas where automobiles are double-parked. He stated that there are residential areas of the city that have cars that are parked across the sidewalk. This is a hazard for disabled persons, he said. Councillor Davis stated that this issue also affects school children because it is a safety issue.

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Councillor Russell urged the residents to call the Police Department at 349-3306 to report any vehicle that is obstructing the public way. Ms. Clippinger urged the residents to contact the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p. m. Monday through Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday at 349-4700 to report illegally parked cars. Her department will ticket the offenders, she said.

Mr. Cobham stated that the fines need to be increased. Councillor Davis asked Ms. Clippinger if the City can increase the fines. Ms. Clippinger stated that to increase the fines a home rule petition would be needed.

The committee heard from Stefanie Potson, who stated that there are crosswalks that are not associated with lights. She informed the committee that she has waited as long as twenty minutes because the cars will not stop to let her cross the street. She suggested the installation of a special light at these particular crosswalks. She further asked why there is no information on the Web Page about traffic issues. She stated that the telephone numbers given out today are not on the Web Page.

The committee heard from Rita MacElevey, Pearl Street, who urged moving crosswalks away from the corners of the streets. Ms. Clippinger stated that there are many locations where motorists cannot see the intersection from the stop line. Motorists, she stated, are obligated to stop at the stop line, yield to pedestrians and then you can proceed if there are no pedestrians. Motorists need to stop twice, she said. Councillor Russell stated that Massachusetts Avenue and Churchill Avenue has this same type of situation.

The committee heard from Alexia Hayes, 42 Pilgrim Street, author of an article entitled "Dangerous Crossing". She stated that there is confusion at lights. Lights are green for the traffic and the pedestrians have an active walk light at the same time. There has been no change in this situation, she said. Councillor Davis stated that things are not changing because there is a decision not to change.

Ms. Clippinger stated that the traffic signals in the City have been reviewed from the pedestrian viewpoint. Motorists, she said, see pedestrians, as an impediment. She further stated that the City wants traffic lights to be pedestrian friendly. She stated that the City signal policy is to have concurrent walk signals and to eliminate the walk buttons in order for the walk signal to come up with the shortest possible wait. She informed the committee that the intersection of Inman Street and Massachusetts Avenue is an exclusive walk signal because there is a high pedestrian volume of traffic in this area. The signal penalizes Inman Street because the focus is on the pedestrians and Massachusetts Avenue. She stated that Essex Street operates as a total pedestrian light, either Massachusetts Avenue has the light or the pedestrians have the light. The lights at Brookline Street and Massachusetts Avenue are concurrent, she said. She also stated that if the light at

Massachusetts Avenue and Prospect Street is run as an exclusive light additional time will be added to the light and this will cause delays at all the traffic lights along the entire route of Massachusetts Avenue. Ms. Clippinger stated that an analysis was done on the Huron Avenue accident. The more traffic there is, the more likely the pedestrian has to wait for the lights, she said. The City is trying to make the lights more sensible for the pedestrians, she said. Councillor Davis stated that these decisions are not arbitrary decisions.

The committee heard from Susan Pacheco, Council on Aging Staff, who stated that the residents at the Senior Center in North Cambridge are concerned about removing the median strip on Massachusetts Avenue. She further stated that the intersection of Cardinal Medeiros Avenue, Warren Street, and Cambridge Street is a dangerous intersection and requires a traffic light. This is a concern of the residents of 15 Lambert Street, she said. Ms. Clippinger informed the committee that this intersection has been recommended to be changed. She further stated that there was a signal at this location, but it was removed because of the delays. She stated that Cambridge Street improvements will commence this summer.

Ms. Chaiken stated that the stop sign at the corner of Green Street and Magazine Street should be repositioned.

Mr. Bowles stated that on Harvard Street there is an issue of an owner's bushes that are overgrown and are causing problems for pedestrians walking on the sidewalk. He asked if there was a city ordinance to deal with this matter. Councillor Davis urged Mr. Bowles to call 349-4854, the City sidewalk hot line. The City will either contact the owner or issue a citation to the owner.

At the conclusion of the meeting a resident requested a sidewalk yield sign be placed on the post at Massachusetts Avenue and Remington Street.

At one o'clock and twenty minutes p.m. the meeting adjourned.

For the Committee,

Councillor Henrietta Davis,
Chair

ATTACHMENT A

ADDITIONS TO PEDESTRIAN SUMMARY ISSUES FROM MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 4, 1999 AT SENIOR CENTER

Enforcement of Traffic Laws – generally		12	
	enforce vehicle stops at crosswalks	4	
	enforce vehicle speed limits	3	
	increase fines	4	
	enforce jaywalking laws	3	
	enforce vehicle stopping at stop signs	1	
	double parked cars	1	
	cars parked at bus stops	1	29
Walk Signals	cancel “right on red”	1	
	increase walk times	4	
	cancel vehicle turns across walk signals	3	
	check light at Prospect and Mass. Avenue and Harvard Square	1	9
Crosswalks	(see also Crosswalks above)		
	Add more ‘State Law’ signs at crosswalks	3	
	Add more lights at crosswalks	3	
	Use barriers to direct pedestrians to crosswalks	1	
	Orange lettering “Stop for pedestrians	1	
	Pedestrian right of way	1	
	Dangerous crossings	1	10
Sidewalks	(see also Snow Removal)		
	brick sidewalks are a hazard	3	
	dog feces – education & enforcement	1	
	stop cars parking on sidewalk	2	
	bikes off sidewalk at 2 Mt. Auburn St.	1	7
Education	Add more signs	2	
	Increase pedestrian ed.	1	
	Teach children how to cross intersections appropriately	1	
	Brochure of traffic, pedestrian & bicycle laws	2	
	Web Page to contain traffic issues and important telephone numbers	1	7

Problem Intersections/Crossings			
Porter Square	Somerville Ave. @ MBTA	5	
	Elm St. @ rear of Shopping Center	3	
	Mass. Ave. @ Upland Road	1	9
Central Square	Mass. Ave. @ Prospect St.	5	
	Green St. @ Magazine St. (stop sign)	3	
	Mass. Ave. @ Essex St.	1	
	Prospect St. @ Bishop Allen Dr.	1	
	Mass. Ave. @ Inman St.	1	11
Memorial Drive	@ River St.	2	
	@ Western Ave.	2	
	@ JFK	1	5
Mason St. @ Garden & Brattle St.		2	
Harvard Square – Mass. Ave. @ Out-of-Town News		1	
Inman Square		1	
Cambridge St. & Kirkland St. @ Quincy St.		1	
Mt. Auburn St. @ Cemetery		1	
Belmont St. @ Cushing St.		1	
Concord Ave. @ Huron Ave.		1	
Concord Ave. @ Appleton St.		1	
Mass. Ave. @ Walden St.		1	
Mass. Ave. @ Churchill St.		1	
Concord Ave., Huron Ave., Walden St. (cars double parked)		1	
Cardinal Medeiros Av., Warren St. & Cambridge St.		1	38
Miscellaneous			
Keep traffic island between Harvard & Porter Sq. on Mass. Ave. to allow rest for slow pedestrians		3	
Increase fees for 2 nd & 3 rd cars in household		1	
Get rid of cars!		1	
Slow cars on Inman St. between Harvard St. & Mass. Ave.		1	
Add beeper on light @ Sellers St.		1	
Keep bus stop @ Mass. Ave. & Churchill St.		1	
Add shelter at bus stop @ Mass Ave. & Churchill St.		1	
Remove bike lane on “Little Concord Ave.” which goes against the one-way traffic		1	
Limit size of delivery trucks – Temple St.		1	
Repaint white crosswalks		1	
Signs at underground garages		1	
Special light for crosswalks not associated with lights		1	
Overgrown bushes removed which block sidewalk		1	
Yield sign – Mass. Ave. & Remington St.		1	16

Pedestrian Issues Summary

Prepared for City Councillor Henrietta Davis by A. Abbott, 2/3/99

Ranked in order of frequency and loosely categorized, the following issues have been raised in response to your recent request for citizens to submit their concerns about pedestrian safety.

Category		# respondents raising issue	Total
Crosswalks	Add crosswalk on Green St. @ Manning Elder Housing	45	45
Snow Removal	lack of enforcement, education, etc.	15	22
	esp., MBTA stops	5	
	esp., city properties	1	
	hotline hasn't shown results	1	
Enforcement of Traffic Laws - generally		11	21
	enforce vehicle stops at crosswalks	3	
	enforce vehicle speed limits	3	
	increase fines	2	
	enforce jaywalking laws	2	
Bicycles	need for enforcement	6	21
	keep off sidewalks	7	
	stop at red lights	4	
	should have horns, registration, . . .	2	
Walk Signals	Increase walk times	4	7
	Cancel vehicle turns across walk signals	3	
Crosswalks	(see also Crosswalks above)		7
	Add more 'State Law' signs at crosswalks	3	
	Add more lights at crosswalks	3	
	Use barriers to direct pedestrians to crosswalks	1	
Sidewalks	(see also Snow Removal)		5
	brick sidewalks are a hazard	3	
	dog feces - education & enforcement	1	
	stop cars parking on sidewalks	1	
Education	Add more signs	2	4
	Increase pedestrian ed.	1	
	Teach children how to cross intersections appropriately	1	
Benches	Add more generally, esp., at bus stops	4	4
Traffic Calming	Add more such measures	2	3
	esp., in Central Sq.	1	

Problem Intersections / Crossings

Porter Square	Somerville Ave @ MBTA Station	5	
	Elm St. @ rear of Shopping Ctr.	3	
	Mass. Ave. @ Upland Rd.	1	9
Central Square	Mass. Ave @ Prospect St.	4	
	Green St. @ Magazine St.	2	
	Mass Ave. @ Essex St.	1	
	Prospect St. @ Bishop Allen Dr.	1	8
Memorial Drive	@ River St.	2	
	@ Western Ave.	2	
	@ JFK	1	5
	Mason St. @ Garden & Brattle St.	2	
Harvard Square	Mass. Ave @ Out-of-Town News	1	
Inman Square		1	
	Cambridge St. & Kirkland St. @ Quincy St.	1	
	Mt. Auburn St. @ Cemetary	1	
	Belmont St. @ Cushing St.	1	
	Concord St. @ Huron Ave.	1	
	Concord St. @ Appleton St.	1	
	Mass. Ave. @ Walden St.	1	

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Miscellaneous	Keep traffic island between Harvard & Porter Sq. on Mass. Ave. to allow rest for slow pedestrians	2	
	Increase fees for 2nd & 3rd cars in household	1	
	Get rid of cars!	1	
	Slow cars on Inman St. between Harvard St. & Mass. Ave	1	
	Add beeper on light @ Sellers St.	1	
	Keep bus stop @ Mass. Ave. & Churchill St.	1	
	Add shelter at bus stop @ Mass. Ave. & Churchill St.	1	
	Remove bike lane on "Little Concord Ave." which goes against one-way traffic	1	9

City of Cambridge

In City Council February 22, 1999

The Traffic and Transportation Committee conducted a public meeting on Thursday, February 4, 1999 at twelve o'clock and ten minutes p. m. at the Cambridge Senior Center located at 806 Massachusetts Avenue.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with the seniors pedestrian safety issues.

Present at the meeting were Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair, Councillor Sheila Russell, Sue Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Rosalie Anders, Project Coordinator of Pedestrian Issues, Community Development Department and Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk.

Councillor Davis opened the meeting by stating that three to four weeks ago the Traffic and Transportation Committee held a pedestrian safety meeting and the committee was requested to come to the Senior Center to hear the concerns of the seniors regarding pedestrian issues. Councillor Davis announced that Alex Abbott, an aide assisting her, has gone through all the Pedestrian Surveys and other responses have summarized the pedestrian safety issues. This summary is attached to this report as **ATTACHMENT A**.

Councillor Davis opened the meeting to the public and asked for the comments of those in attendance.

The committee heard from Donna Johnson, 17 Meacham Road, who asked why doesn't the traffic stop for stop signs. She also was opposed to the Right on Red traffic regulation.

The committee heard from Virginia Jay, 2 Mt. Auburn Street, who informed the committee that bicyclists are not stopping on Mt. Auburn Street at the light and they are travelling on the sidewalk.

The committee heard from Fran Chaiken, Mt. Auburn Street, who suggested placing orange lettering in the crosswalks stating "PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK - STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS".

Committee Report #3

S-1373

A report from Councillor Davis,
Chair of the Traffic and Transportation
Committee, for a meeting on February 4,
1999 to discuss pedestrian safety
issues with the seniors.

In City Council February 22, 1999

Report Accepted

PLACED ON FILE