

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Traffic, Parking and Transportation
57 Inman Street,
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Susan E. Clippinger
Director

Administration 349-4700
Parking Violations 349-4705
Resident Parking 349-4701

September 23, 1998

TO: Robert Healy, City Manager

FROM: Susan E. Clippinger, Director *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Council Order #112 dated 7/27/98

RE: Report on the new night time truck restrictions on Kirkland Street and proceed with an application to the MHD to extend this restriction to all streets in the city.

Kirkland Street has been considered for a truck restriction for a long time. Washington Street in Somerville (the extension of Kirkland Street north of Beacon Street) has had a truck restriction 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. on it since 8/19/64. The two cities of Cambridge and Somerville jointly requested a 24 hour truck restriction for Kirkland and Washington Streets on 1/16/91. The alternate route identified in the request was to stay on O'Brien Highway or use First Street, Binney St., Main St., and Mass. Ave. The State denied the request on 4/16/91. The alternate route was "too circuitous and a disadvantage to truck traffic". They further recommended that the cities rescind the Prospect Street restriction to alleviate some problems created by truck traffic.

At the City Manager's Truck Advisory Committee's first meeting on January 24, 1996, the Department identified the three streets that were being studied and prepared for submittal to the State MHD with the request to restrict trucks. The three streets were Fulkerson (24 hour ban), Putnam (7p.m. - 7 a.m. ban) and Kirkland (11 p.m. - 6 a.m. ban).

Kirkland Street was the last one to be completed and went into effect on 6/25/98. The combined Cambridge and Somerville bans extend from Quincy at Cambridge along Kirkland and Washington Streets to Somerville Ave. in Union Square. The city of Somerville has been attempting to also restrict trucks from the section of Washington Street between Somerville Ave. and O'Brien Highway. They have been unable to secure the State's support for the restriction.

Throughout the meetings and deliberations of the Manager's Truck Advisory Committee, reducing the adverse impact of night time truck traffic was considered a priority. The goal of the Kirkland night time ban is to eliminate a short cut for through trucks and encourage them to stay on the state highways and not pass through Cambridge and Somerville. The restriction will not relocate all the Kirkland trucks to Cambridge Street.

RECEIVED
SEP 29 AM 9:56
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The truck count taken on Kirkland Street just east of Myrtle before the restriction showed that 43 trucks used Kirkland Street between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. 24 or 56% of the trucks were westbound coming in from Somerville. The 1998 count of night time trucks is very similar to the counts taken in 1990. The westbound trucks are not likely to be diverted to Cambridge Street since they would have to go east to Medford Street or the Lechmere area to access Cambridge Street. They are more likely to use Somerville Ave. westbound, stay on O'Brien Highway or use First Street, Binney Street, Main Street and Mass. Ave. The eastbound trucks may divert to Cambridge Street but it is a very indirect route to Somerville or points further to the north or northeast. Trucks that may be coming from the Newton Corner exit off the Mass. Pike may instead get off at the Allston exit and use the River, Mass., Main and Binney route. Other trucks may choose not to go through the underpass and proceed north on Mass. Ave.

The Department will be doing a follow-up count on Kirkland Street next spring to see what changes have occurred since the truck restriction has been in place.

A summary of the Kirkland Street count information is attached.

Kirkland Street Truck Counts

	<u>1990</u>				<u>1998</u>		
	WB (In)	EB (Out)	Total		WB (In)	EB (Out)	Total
11pm	4	2	6		1	3	4
12pm	6	0	6		1	0	1
1am	1	2	3		1	0	1
2am	3	1	4		0	1	1
3am	0	3	3		7	4	11
4am	5	5	10		4	5	9
5am	6	4	10		10	6	16
subtotal	25	17	42		24	19	43
Daily Trucks:							
	592	122	714		379	339	718
Daily All Vehicles:							
Kirkland east of Myrtle							
	6,290	5,721	12,011		7,986	6,356	14,342
Kirkland near Sumner							
	5,577	6,208	11,785				

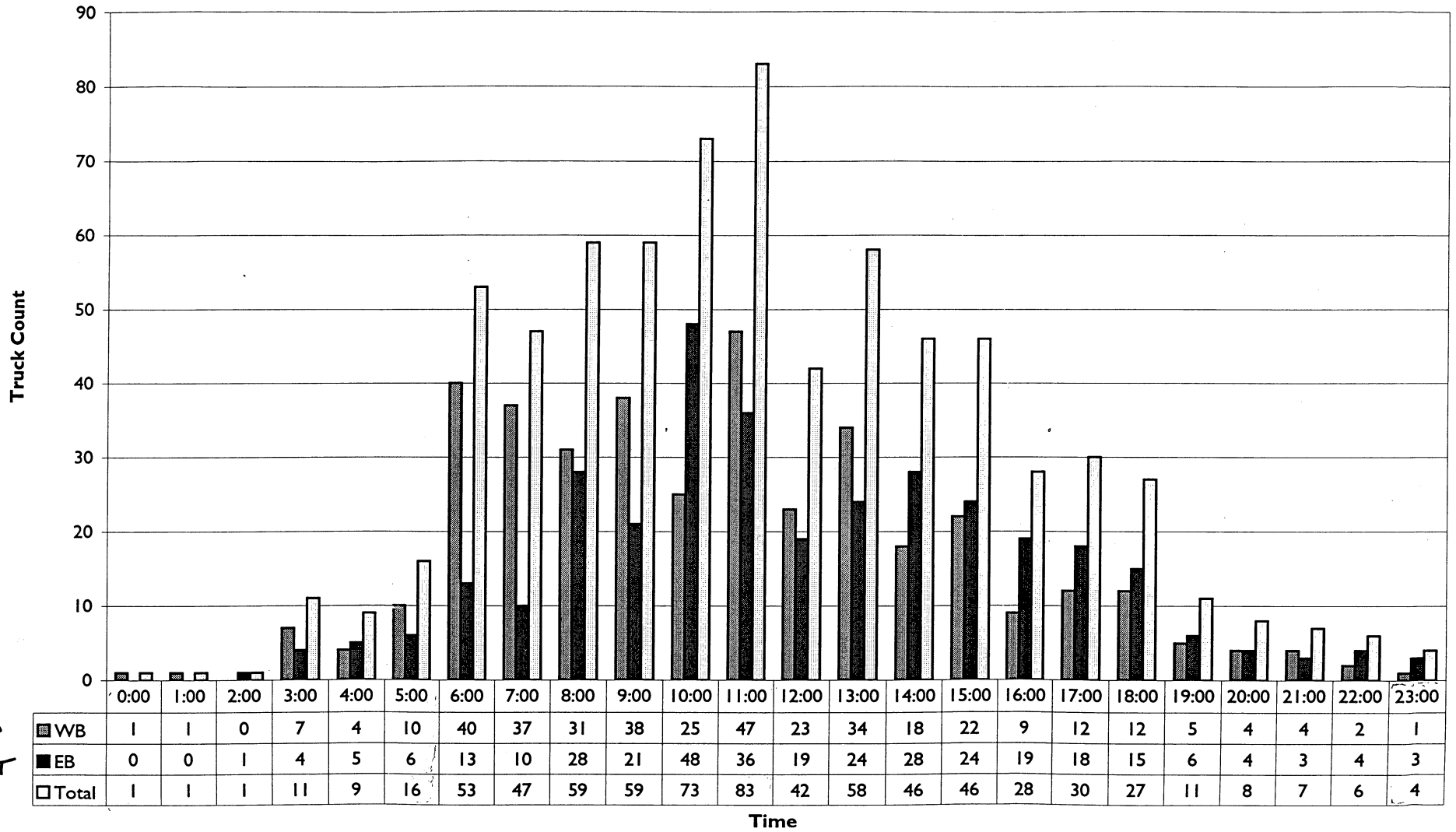
Notes.

1. All these counts were taken prior to the 11pm to 6am Kirkland truck restriction that went into effect on June 25, 1998.
2. 1990 counts were taken to support Cambridge and Somerville's unsuccessful joint request for a 24 hour truck restriction on Kirkland and Washington Streets.
3. 1998 counts were taken as part of the 1998 cordon count.

1998

Kirkland Street Truck Data

(Before the truck restriction)





CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

October 5, 1998

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 11 regarding a report on the new nighttime truck restrictions on Kirkland Street, received from Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

6645 Cal. 1

Consent Agenda #8

Relative to a report on the new
nighttime truck restrictions on
Kirkland Street.

In Ctiy Council October 5, 1998

CHARTER RIGHT
BY Councillor Turantafellow

10/19/98

PLACED ON FILE