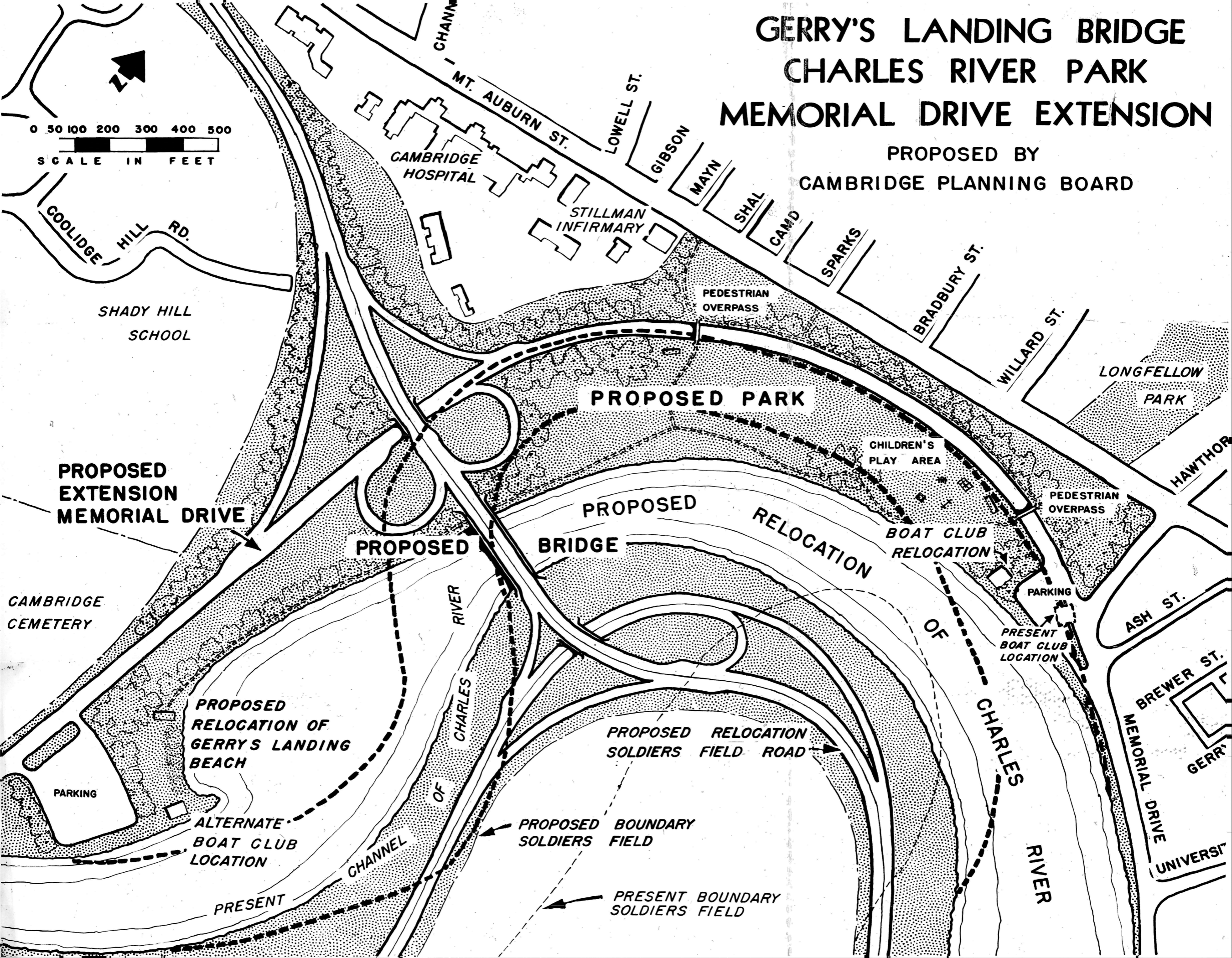
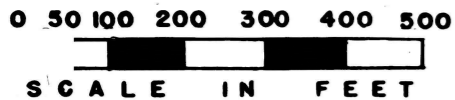


# GERRY'S LANDING BRIDGE CHARLES RIVER PARK MEMORIAL DRIVE EXTENSION

PROPOSED BY  
CAMBRIDGE PLANNING BOARD





*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Metropolitan District Commission*

*20 Somerset Street, Boston 8*

March 1, 1946.

Mr. Frederick H. Burke  
City Clerk of Cambridge  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 27, transmitting order of the City Council endorsing plan and report of the Cambridge Planning Board relative to extension of Memorial Drive to Watertown.

This plan and report were given consideration by the Commission at its meeting on February 28.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nelson Curtis".

NELSON CURTIS  
Secretary.

GN

*File with No. 7. Public Service 1946*





# City of Cambridge

IN CITY COUNCIL

February 18, 1946.

WHEREAS:-

The Planning Board of the City of Cambridge has presented for the consideration of the City Council a plan and report on the extension of Memorial Drive to Watertown, it is therefore

ORDERED:-

That the report of the Planning Board entitled, "RECOMMENDATION OF THE CAMBRIDGE PLANNING BOARD TO THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION Relative to CONSTRUCTION OF GERRY'S LANDING BRIDGE, PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL RECREATION SPACE IN CAMBRIDGE, PROPOSED EXTENSION OF MEMORIAL DRIVE" and plan entitled, "GERRY'S LANDING BRIDGE, CHARLES RIVER PARK, MEMORIAL DRIVE EXTENSION" be and the same are hereby endorsed, and it is further

ORDERED:-

That the City Clerk transmit to the Metropolitan District Commission a notice of the action of the City Council relative to this matter.

City Council..... FEB 25 1946

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 9 members

*Frederick H. Burke*  
..... City Clerk



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
MASSACHUSETTS  
PLANNING BOARD

FREDERICK J. ADAMS, CHAIRMAN  
JUSTIN R. HARTZOG, SECRETARY  
ALDRICH DURANT  
J. W. GREER  
JOHN F. FERRICK  
JAMES J. CASEY  
G. FRANK HOOKER

CITY HALL ANNEX  
57 INMAN STREET  
CAMBRIDGE 39.

February 15, 1946

Colonel John B. Atkinson  
City Hall  
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Colonel Atkinson:

The Planning Board presents for your consideration the accompanying plan and report on the extension of Memorial Drive to Watertown. This plan, which varies considerably from the scheme developed by the Metropolitan District Commission, has been worked out by the Planning Board staff and was endorsed by the Board at its meeting on February 14.

At their meeting of February 4, 1946, the Council went on record as favoring the proposed plan for extending Memorial Drive and constructing a bridge across the Charles River at Gerry's Landing.

In order that Cambridge's position with regard to the proposed extension be further clarified, the Planning Board recommends that the City Council endorse the accompanying report and plan, and transmit to the Metropolitan District Commission a notice of their action. Such a recommendation would further reinforce the previous action of the Council by concretely and graphically stating principles of planning and construction that should be followed to best meet the traffic and recreation needs of Cambridge.

We believe that the issue is sufficiently vital to the best interests of the city to warrant official endorsement by the City Council.

Sincerely yours,

*Frederick J. Adams*  
Frederick J. Adams  
Chairman

FJA:L

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CAMBRIDGE PLANNING BOARD TO THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION

Relative to

CONSTRUCTION OF GERRY'S LANDING BRIDGE  
PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL RECREATION SPACE IN CAMBRIDGE  
PROPOSED EXTENSION OF MEMORIAL DRIVE

The proposed plan for the extension of Memorial Drive is a logical step toward the completion of an attractive and continuous drive along the Charles River. We strongly feel, however, that such extension should be carefully considered not only in relation to meeting traffic needs but also in relation to the recreation needs of the people of Cambridge.

It is suggested that the Metropolitan District Commission give consideration to the principles incorporated in the accompanying plan which has been prepared by the Cambridge Planning Board. In the order of their importance these principles are as follows:

A. RE-ALIGNMENT OF THE CHARLES RIVER AND CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE AT GERRY'S LANDING PROVIDING DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN FRESH POND PARKWAY, CAMBRIDGE, and SOLDIERS FIELD ROAD, BOSTON.

Such action would bring a two-fold benefit to the City of Cambridge:

1. It would provide a direct link between ~~Mc~~ Auburn Street and Fresh Pond Parkway to Soldiers Field Road. Much of the traffic congestion on Cambridge streets is caused by through traffic between the outlying suburbs and Boston. The construction of a bridge at Gerry's Landing would divert much of this through traffic directly to Soldiers Field Road, which would considerably relieve the traffic load on Memorial Drive.

2. It would provide between ten and twenty additional acres of recreation space for Cambridge citizens. One of Cambridge's most pressing needs is for additional recreation space of all kinds. This proposal would increase the amount of land available for parks and active recreation in a densely populated section.

It should be emphasized that this proposal is not new. It closely follows a plan drawn by the Division of Metropolitan Planning in September, 1933. Except for details of design the plan of thirteen years ago has been followed in the present proposal.

The plan shown here has additional advantages. By providing for re-alignment of the river and the alteration in the boundaries of Soldiers Field it would reduce the sharp curve now existing in Soldiers Field Road. Properly designed grade separations at Mt. Auburn Street and Fresh Pond Parkway and at each end of the Larz Anderson Bridge, not shown on the accompanying plan, would be essential to this scheme.

This plan would further provide opportunities for the re-location of the existing boat club in any one of several spots. It would make possible the further development of Gerry's Landing as a bathing beach in an attractively landscaped setting.

B. EXTENSION OF MEMORIAL DRIVE IN CAMBRIDGE TO WATERTOWN WITH SUITABLE TRAFFIC INTERCHANGE AT THE GERRY'S LANDING BRIDGE AND APPROPRIATE PARKING AREAS ALONG THE RIVER.

Such action would provide a pleasant park drive along the entire river front, making it readily accessible for recreation purposes.

Memorial Drive would thus be primarily a park and recreation drive. Adjacent to Mount Auburn Street it could be slightly depressed and spanned by pedestrian overpasses, following the plan drawn up by the Division of Metropolitan Planning in 1933.

In summary, we believe that the adoption of the principles set forth in this proposal will result in an efficient and much needed traffic connection between Boston, Cambridge, and suburban areas. In addition they will bring about the full development of a natural beauty spot lined by recreation areas and a river front drive.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

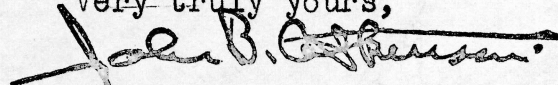
JOHN B. ATKINSON  
CITY MANAGER

February 18, 1946

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I transmit herewith a communication from Frederick J. Adams, Chairman of the Cambridge Planning Board, submitting plan and report on the extension of Memorial Drive to Watertown.

Very truly yours,

  
John B. Atkinson  
City Manager

JBA:M

COMMUNICATION  
from the City Manager trans-  
mitting one from Chairman of  
Planning Board submitting  
Plan & report in the attention  
of Memorial Drive to Waterhouse

10

Feb 8

City Adams appeared  
" Kellican

over to Finance

Wendell H. ...  
at ...

City Council FEB 18 1946

Councillor ...  
putted ... at the same

Frederick H. Burke

Cal Feb 25

7