



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

SUSAN B. SCHLESINGER,
Assistant City Manager for
Community Development

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: Susan B. Schlesinger *SB*
Assistant City Manager for Community Development

Susan E. Clippinger *SC*
Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation

RE: Council Order #063, dated 1/22/96
Impact of Truck and Auto Traffic on Putnam Ave and
Cambridgeport Streets During the Lafayette Square Project

DATE: February 8, 1996

The goals of the Lafayette Square reconfiguration and the Cambridgeport Roadway Improvements are to move through traffic and traffic associated with University Park from densely settled residential streets in Cambridgeport and Neighborhood Four. Traffic travelling from Lafayette Square to the B.U. Bridge rotary will be shifted from Pearl Street to Sidney Street. The new intersection design and operation will direct this through traffic approaching Central Square from Main Street, Columbia Street and westbound Massachusetts Avenue to Sidney Street. As part of the Cambridgeport Roadway Improvements, a new southbound connection from Sidney Street to Brookline Street will be created. Sidney Street will be extended directly across Henry Street to connect via the roadway behind 640 Memorial Drive to Brookline Street. This will significantly decrease traffic volumes on Henry Street. MIT has agreed to provide the right-of-way to allow this new roadway connection.

Traffic from Lafayette Square, including trucks, destined for the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) is projected to continue to travel through Central Square to Pleasant Street and Western Avenue. This route will continue to offer shorter travel distance and travel time, as well as the least restrictive roadway geometry relative to the Sidney Street/Putnam Avenue/Western Avenue alternative.

In order to further deter the use of Sidney Street and Putnam Avenue for this through traffic, we are working with our traffic consultants to identify additional design and operational measures that can be put in place as part of the roadway improvements. In addition, we are currently undertaking a study of possible truck restrictions that may be put in place on Putnam Avenue in the near term to address current truck traffic concerns.

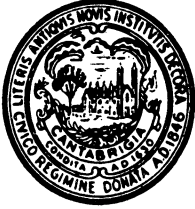
(2)

In addition, we are exploring means by which construction of the Sidney Street to Brookline Street connector portion of the Cambridgeport Roadway Improvements can occur as early as possible to coincide with or immediately follow construction of Lafayette Square Improvements. Such an accelerated schedule will relieve the southbound traffic volumes on Henry Street attributed to the Lafayette Square Improvements.

Finally, as part of the design process for the Cambridgeport Roadway Improvements, we will be working with our consultants to anticipate and address any undesirable traffic diversions through the Cambridgeport residential streets.

A meeting is scheduled to discuss the Lafayette Square and Cambridgeport improvements for Thursday, February 29 at 7:00 P.M. at the Morse School.

We will keep you informed of progress on these matters.



3.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

February 26, 1996

To The Honorable, The City Council:

With reference to Awaiting Report Item No. 13, regarding a report on the impact of truck and automobile traffic on Putnam Avenue and on surrounding Cambridgeport streets during the Lafayette Square project, please find attached a joint response from Assistant City Manager for Community Development Susan Schlesinger and Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda #3

Cal 3
S-74

Relative to Awaiting Report Item
Number Thirteen, regarding a report
on the impact of truck and automobile
traffic on Putnam Avenue and on
surrounding Cambridgeport streets during
the Lafayette Square project.

In City Council February 26, 1996

Report accepted by an affirmative
vote of nine members.

Placed on file.