

RALPH (SKIP) SCHLOMING

102 INMAN STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139
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97 FEB 10 PM 5:30

8 February 1997

CAMBRIDGE MA.

Cambridge City Council
and
Robert Healy, City Manager
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Councillors and City Manager:

For a year now at least, all people who drive through Inman Square, including residents like ourselves, have been subjected to a chronically malfunctioning traffic light system.

At the oddest times, often midday, the "GO" traffic cycle for Hampshire/Beacon Streets lasts only 15 seconds, 20 seconds or 30 seconds in a total cycle for the whole intersection that always lasts 120 seconds (2 minutes).

As a result, the traffic backs up past Johnny's Foodmaster in one direction and all the way to the Prospect/Hampshire intersection, clogging that intersection. We sit in our car for three cycles (6 minutes) in order to travel the one block from Prospect Street to Inman Square, meanwhile watching a virtually empty Inman Square intersection. Today (Saturday) it was 30 seconds at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., and so presumably clogging traffic all afternoon.

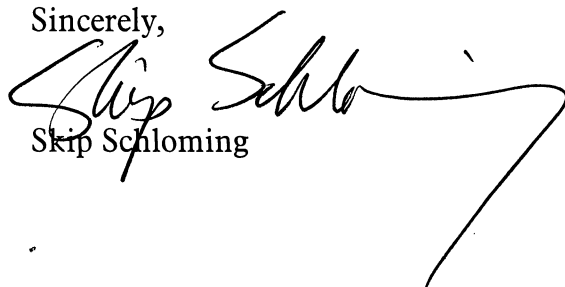
Hampshire/Beacon is clearly the most congested. It is two lanes, left turns permitted, with entering traffic from the S&S Restaurant and the East Savings Cambridge Bank, whereas Cambridge Street is three lanes, left turns prohibited, and less entering traffic. Springfield is a single one-way lane with relatively small amount of traffic.

I have spoken about the problem with Mr. Dave Brian in the Traffic Department many times, starting about nine months ago. Mr. Ryan agrees that Hampshire/Beacon should get the longest cycle -- at least 50 seconds and probably more -- leaving 50 seconds for Cambridge Street and 20 seconds for little Springfield Street.

It appears the problem is not Mr. Ryan's good efforts, but defective or outdated signal control systems. I suggest that Inman Square traffic lights be put on continuous red-flashing mode until new equipment is installed, since the present arrangement is so bad. Drivers can manage quite a bit better, I am sure, on their own.

Better no government than bad government.

Sincerely,


Skip Schloming

Consent Communications #1

S-102

Communication was received from Skip Schloming, 102 Inman Street, transmitting concern on a malfunctioning traffic light in Inman Street.

In City Council February 24, 1997

Referred to
City Manager