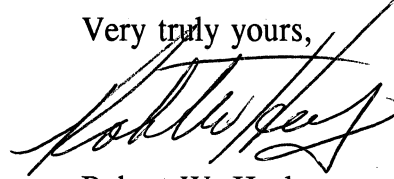


The Honorable, The City Council:
December 22, 1997
Page 2

Drawings of the North Massachusetts Avenue plans will be available in advance of the next community meeting.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", written over the closing "yours,".

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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2.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

December 22, 1997

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 14, regarding a report on community outreach and the planning process for traffic changes along Northern Massachusetts Avenue, Traffic, Parking & Transportation Susan Clippinger, Assistant City Manager for Community Development Susan Schlesinger and Public Works Commissioner Ralph Dunphy report the following:

Sewer separation work is planned for the Massachusetts Avenue corridor from Porter Square to the Arlington line and needs to begin by July, 1998. This work is part of the court ordered clean up of the Charles River. As part of this project, some of the improvements to the roadway system (including curbs, sidewalks, crosswalks) are being planned to be implemented in conjunction with the sewer work. The rest will be implemented after the sewer work is completed. The project is being funded with both MWRA and MHD funds.

There have been seven community meetings about North Massachusetts Avenue over the summer and fall to get community feedback and to review the plans for the North Massachusetts Avenue project. Residents and businesses have also been actively involved in the design process. Notice about the meetings has been via mailings, flyers, newspaper listings and street signs. The last two meetings were large Saturday meetings held on October 4th and November 15th attended by about 100 residents each. The project includes transportation improvements for all modes--vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles and transit.

The present project design adds pedestrian crosswalks, reduces crossing distances, provides landscaping opportunities, safe crosswalks, adds bicycle lanes, improves the signals, allows u-turns in a small number of key locations, and makes major operational aesthetic improvements at the key intersections. The conceptual plans need to be finalized in the next 6-8 weeks so they can be coordinated with and integrated into the final design for the sewer work that will occur along Massachusetts Avenue. As the conceptual design process draws to a conclusion. The community will continue to be involved in the planning of the urban design enhancements (such as benches, landscaping, etc.) for the corridor which will be built as part of the construction of the sewer separation job along Massachusetts Avenue with a combination of sewer and roadway funds.

Consent Agenda #2

5-783

Relative to Awaiting Report Item Number
Fourteen, regarding a report on community
outreach and the planning process for
traffic changes along Northern Massachusetts
Avenue.

In City Council December 22, 1997

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