



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Date March 20, 1987

From George Teso, Traffic Director

Reference

Subject City Council Order #10 of March 16, 1987 "Progress On the Computerized Program To Control Traffic Lights".

The Traffic Department has installed its "TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONTROL COMPUTER" at its office at 57 Inman Street and it is now operational. At the present time all of the signalized intersections on Broadway are on-line and being controlled from our office. This computer checks each local control once every second and gives us information on what is happening at that intersection both numerically and graphically. This information is then analyzed and used for future changes in the system.

This master computer is capable of changing our lights to meet the traffic demands as well as features such as remote control flash, special traffic patterns for emergency situations and other traffic systems within the major system. At the present time we are programming everything by time of day and day of week, and sometime in the future when funding becomes available we will be installing sensors in our streets at strategic locations throughout the city that will transmit traffic data to the computer which will analyze the data and will automatically change the local controllers to meet the existing conditions.

This system now controlling Broadway has allowed us to control the movement of traffic at a speed of 28 MPH and to remove some of the lines of traffic waiting for lights to change. These changes have resulted in less back-up which means less waiting time and a savings in fuel, less moving violations and less accidents.

The Inman Street, Prospect Street and Inman Square lights (5 intersections) are now under contract to be converted and interconnected with the computer. These will be completed this summer.

Also, under our Capital Investment Program we expect to start converting the Mass. Ave. lights this fall and will continue until the entire city is completed.

I would be very happy to show this computer and how it works to the City Council or any individual Councilor at their convenience. The computer was primarily designed by our staff and one of the conditions was that any traffic engineer with a minimal amount of training could operate or change these programs. Unlike the Boston Computer or MDC Computer we do not require costly programmers to operate them.

GT:rd

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OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

March 30, 1987

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report No. 15, I submit the attached report from George Teso, Director of Traffic and Parking, which outlines the progress of the computerization of traffic signals across the City.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Re: response to Awaiting Report Item No. 15
on the progress of computerization of traffic
signals across the City.

In City Council,

March 30, 1987

Placed on File

Councillor WOLF requested
an update on program for
discussion during FYFA
Budget Hearings.