



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

SUSAN B. SCHLESINGER

*Assistant City Manager for
Community Development*

ELIZABETH EPSTEIN

*Deputy Director for
Community Development*

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From: ^{SBS} Susan B. Schlesinger, Assistant City Manager for Community Development

Date: September 3, 1997

Subject: Response to Council Order #134 dated 8/4/97
Report on the Status of Improvements within the Alewife Area

In response to the above referenced order I report the following:

As part of the Fresh Pond Parkway Enhancement Project, safety and aesthetic improvements to the rotaries will be made including changes to curbs, new signs, historical lighting, lane striping and landscaping. Together these improvements will contribute to making the rotaries function more efficiently and safely for users, as well as making them part of a more inviting 'gateway' to Cambridge. The Enhancement project also includes new pedestrian crossings of the Parkway and Concord Avenue, new sidewalks, historical lighting, landscaping and bicycle paths along the roadway on both the pond side and on the business side between the rotaries. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 1998.

An RFP has been issued by Public Works for a contractor to repave Concord Avenue from the Ground Round restaurant to the Belmont town line. Work is expected to be completed this fall. This will be a simple grind and overlay paving as well as new pavement markings; a full-depth reconstruction will be necessary in a few years along with major sewer work. At this time, the sewer work has not been designed, nor have funds been identified for this work. During the design phase for the sewer project, greater attention will be given to the surface design features, including sidewalks, crossings, landscaping, lighting, and signage.

The widening of Smith Place was identified in the 1979 Alewife Plan (fishbook) and the draft 1994 Alewife Planning Study to improve access to the Quadrangle area by eliminating difficult turning angles and providing space for additional sidewalks. Proposed changes would require the taking of private property by the City. Due to the expense and implications of the takings and the need to focus resources in other areas, the project has not been prioritized. Over the past few years infrastructure in several areas of the quadrangle area has been upgraded. In 1996 the construction of Al Wilson Road was completed, linking Moulton Street to Smith Place and included new drainage, sidewalks and lighting. The upgrading of infrastructure in other areas will continue as funding allows.

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

September 8, 1997

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 32, regarding a report on the status of improvements within the Alewife area, received from Assistant City Manager for Community Development Susan Schlesinger.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda #27

S-537

Relative to Awaiting Report Item
Number Thirty-two, regarding a report
on the status of improvements within
the Alewife area.

In City Council September 8, 1997

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