



The Cambridge Environmental Program

February 24, 1993

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: Elizabeth Epstein, Director, Environmental Program *EE*

RE: City Council Order No. 11, dated 1/25/93
Elimination of stairs/ramp from Alewife Brook Parkway Bridge

As indicated in the correspondence attached to the above referenced Council Order, the Metropolitan District Commission has eliminated one of the two stairway/ramps proposed as part of the Alewife Brook Parkway Truss Bridge replacement project. While the proposed stairway/ramp serving the Rindge Towers residences will be implemented, the stairway/ramp at the southeast approach embankment of the new Bridge design was removed following evaluation by the MDC of safety concerns raised by the community and the Alewife Coalition.

This stairway/ramp, to have been located along the steep embankment between the new bridge and the shopping center parking lot, would have placed pedestrians in an unprotected area of the parking lot amidst substantial motor vehicle traffic. The location of the base of the stairway/ramp would have put pedestrians in the path of vehicles traveling on a new roadway underneath the bridge connecting the Fresh Pond Executive Offices and the Fresh Pond Shopping Center. In addition, pedestrians entering the shopping center at this location would be without an adequately delineated and sufficiently protected path through the parking lot to the shopping center building.

Following review of these concerns with Gail Enman, the Executive Director of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, and others in the City and the community, the MDC has eliminated this unsafe stairway/ramp from the new Alewife Brook Parkway Bridge design.



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

March 1, 1993

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 21, regarding the problem of eliminating stairs/ramp from plans at the Alewife Brook Parkway Bridge, received from Elizabeth Epstein, Director of the Environmental Programs, relative to this issue.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

Consent Agenda # 15

S-100

Awaiting Report Item Number 21 regarding
the problem of eliminating stairs/ramp
from plans at the Alewife Brook Parkway
Bridge.

*Original order - see
City Mgr. Requests #
22 of 1993 dated 1/25/93*

In City Council,

March 1, 1993

Placed on file