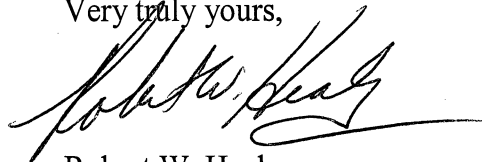


The Honorable, The City Council
October 1, 2001
Page 2

- The FY02 City Budget includes funds for a feasibility study of the possibility of constructing a bike and pedestrian path along the Grand Junction corridor in Cambridge, given the corridor's continued use as a railroad corridor including potentially Urban Ring service. This study will examine the feasibility of linking a future path along the Grand Junction to the Somerville Community Path. The study will begin this fall.
- The City is working with the MDC and the Central Artery Project to ensure that there will be easy access to the New Charles River Basin park system, including its bike paths, from Cambridge.
- City staff has and will continue to participate in the planning process for this regional bike facility and offer technical assistance and design support as needed.

City staff is also working with the Massachusetts Highway Department and the MBTA to improve the link between the Minuteman Bikeway and Linear Park in Alewife and to construct a path from the Alewife T station to Belmont through the Alewife Reservation. These efforts will further enhance the regional bike path network, a key component of the City's vehicle trip reduction efforts.

Very truly yours,

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

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

October 1, 2001

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 01-228, regarding the feasibility of Cambridge providing support for the proposed Somerville Community Bike Path from Linear Park to Lechmere Station, Assistant City Manager for Community Development Beth Rubenstein and Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger report the following:

The City of Somerville and Friends of the Community Path, a citizens group, are working on a plan to extend the Minuteman Bikeway/Linear Park from its current ending in Davis Square in Somerville to Lechmere. The recommended plan calls for a path running alongside MBTA and freight railroad corridors in Somerville entering North Point in Cambridge via an abandoned railroad spur. There is a strong desire to eventually link the proposed 2 ¼ mile path with the Paul Dudley White bike path along the Charles River. To date the City of Somerville has completed a feasibility study and has begun working on more detailed planning for the segment of the pathway between Cedar Street and Central Street.

We strongly support the Somerville Community Path and the desire to continue the path within Cambridge, creating a continuous off road bike path all the way from Bedford via the Minuteman, Linear Park and the Somerville Community Path to the Charles River path system. The City has already taken several steps in support of the development of this path:

- The proposed Design Guidelines included in the Eastern Cambridge Rezoning Petition call for continuous pedestrian and bicycle access through North Point to the MDC New Charles River Basin Park. Further, the guidelines specifically mention the future Somerville Community Path and call for landscaped pedestrian/bicycle connections to the path and the need for attractive landscaping to buffer the path from the adjacent rail yards.
- The proposed Eastern Cambridge Rezoning Petition requires developers in North Point to commit to a program for reductions in auto vehicle trips by providing increased access to other modes. This requirement may be fulfilled through contributions towards design and implementation of a regional bike facility.



3445

Consent Agenda #8

Awaiting Report Item
Number 01-228, regarding
the feasibility of Cambridge
providing support for the
proposed Somerville
Community Bike Path from
Linear Park to Lechmere
Station.

In City Council October 1, 2001

ORDER ADOPTED