

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council April 29, 2002

Mgr's Consent Agenda

YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT	
✓				Vice Mayor Henrietta Davis
✓				Ms. Marjorie C. Decker
✓				Mr. Anthony D. Galluccio
✓				Mr. David P. Maher
✓				Mr. Brian Murphy
✓				Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves
✓				Ms. Denise Simmons
✓				Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
✓				Mayor Michael A. Sullivan

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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

BETH RUBENSTEIN

Assistant City Manager for
Community Development

SUSAN M. GLAZER

Deputy Director for
Community Development

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: Beth Rubenstein, *BR*
Assistant City Manager for Community Development

Susan E. Clippinger *SEC*
Director Traffic, Parking and Transportation

DATE: 04/24/02

RE: Council Order #16, dated April 8, 2002: Report on methods
to engage Harvard in a traffic study of River Street, Western
Avenue, Putnam Avenue and Memorial Drive relative to
development at One Western Avenue

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

Harvard University is in the process of constructing a graduate student housing project located at One Western Avenue, the corner of Western Avenue and Soldier's Field Road in Allston. The project will have approximately 240 apartments and house approximately 356 occupants. The site along Western Avenue previously contained a 600+ parking lot for Harvard University students, faculty and staff. It will be replaced with a 625-car underground parking structure beneath the building. No new parking spaces will be added to the total Allston campus parking supply as a result of the project. Of the 625 spaces about 450 will be used by resident students and about 175 by commuting students or staff. Occupancy of the building is expected to begin late summer 2003.

The traffic impacts of the project are described in two studies produced by Harvard: "Harvard University Allston Campus. Institutional Master Plan Supplemental Information" and "Graduate Student Housing in Allston. Final Project Impact Report" submitted to the Boston Redevelopment Authority. According to these studies, the number of new peak hour trips associated with the project is expected to be fewer than 10. New trips made by student residents are expected to replace current trips being made by commuting students and no new parking is being added. Data gathered for the Institutional Master Plan further indicate that the construction of the project garage will not affect average vehicle delay at the intersection of Western Avenue and Soldier's Field Road. The traffic study prepared for the project does not include any analysis of intersections located in Cambridge.

We have requested an analysis from the city's transportation consultant, Barry Pell of Rizzo Associates, of the assumptions used by Harvard's consultant to determine the traffic impacts of the Allston graduate student housing project. Should this analysis indicate that the project is likely to generate significant new trips in Cambridge, contrary to the information in the project impact report, we will request that Harvard do an analysis of impacts on Cambridge intersections and, where appropriate, propose mitigation.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

April 29, 2002

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 02-28, regarding a report on methods to engage Harvard in a traffic study of River Street, Western Avenue, Putnam Avenue and Memorial Drive relative to development at One Western Avenue, received from Assistant City Manager for Community Development Beth Rubenstein.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

S-122

Consent Agenda #1

Awaiting Report Item No. 02-28,
regarding a report on methods to
engage Harvard in a traffic study
of River St., Western Ave.,
Putnam Ave. and Memorial
Drive with regard to
development at One Western
Avenue.

In City Council April 29, 2002

**PLACED ON FILE.
REFERRED TO RIVERSIDE
STUDY COMMITTEE.**