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June 7 1984
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To His Honor the Mayor and Honorable City Council:

The Council on Aging wishes to voice its concern about the condition of the city's sidewalks. Altogether too many of them pose serious hazards to pedestrians. Uneven surfaces, missing bricks, jagged edges and other defects often present dangerous situations.

These problems have a special impact on elder citizens. Many of our fellow elders have problems walking under good conditions. When they are confronted with sidewalks like obstacle courses, they feel threatened. We know some who habitually walk in the street rather than take chances with the sidewalks. They would rather risk getting hit by an automobile than fall on the brick or concrete.

At our May meeting, we heard presentations from both the Community Development and the Public Works Departments. The three staff members who came explained to us how the city uses both federal and state money plus some tax money of its own for sidewalk repair. We also know about the recent city-wide survey done by the two departments. And we are informed that the city is currently developing a list of repairs to be made in priority order.

Still we are not satisfied. In our view, the city is moving too slowly and with too little in resources. We advocate a crash program designed to ensure that all of the city's sidewalks become walkable withing the next two or three years. Yes, we are aware that the budget plan for next year has already been completed but we still want to insist that action be taken.

Only people who drive everywhere could fail to see how bad the surfaces of Cambridge are. The surfaces on which carless citizens have to walk cry out for repair. We urge the City Council to act now.

Oliver T. Cox

Mary A. Samp

Pauline H. Hingsworth

Gabrielle Husson

Charlotte Skels

Evelyn Godinho

Emily B. Lewis

Elsa J. Stern

H-58

Comm. from Oliver T. Cox, Mary A. Samp, et al, members of the Council on Aging expressing their concern about the condition of City sidewalks & urging that a crash program be designed to make necessary repairs to sidewalks throughout the City.

In City Council,

June 11, 1984

6/11/84

Referred to the
City Mgr-Report

112 weeks
Copy sent to the City Manager
6/14/84 mlh