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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
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RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

October 7, 1996

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 11, regarding an update on the activities of the Truck Advisory Committee, Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi reports the following:

The Truck Traffic Advisory Committee has met eight times since it was established in late December 1995. The Committee is composed of members of the City Manager's Office, Community Development, Traffic, Parking & Transportation, Police and Law Departments as well as Cambridge residents from all neighborhoods and one representative of a truck-dependent Cambridge business. The committee has been working diligently to meet their charge of identifying and evaluating preferred truck routes in Cambridge, reviewing possible local restrictions on truck traffic, and identifying desirable changes in state and federal legislation and regulation that would decrease the impact of truck traffic in Cambridge.

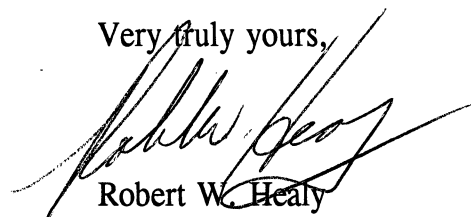
Since its inception, the committee has been reviewing truck concerns from neighborhoods across the City, attempting to identify streets which may serve as part of designated truck routes, discussing desired restrictions of truck traffic and reviewing the complex legal and regulatory requirements for controlling truck traffic. The committee also met with Daniel Fortier, Chief Transportation Planner at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to discuss regional efforts to address truck traffic concerns. Mr. Fortier outlined MAPC's work with state agencies and metropolitan area communities, including Cambridge, to assist communities in identifying the key routes used by trucks and identifying mutually acceptable alternatives where community/truck use conflicts exists. This work, undertaken by MAPC at the request of Cambridge, is currently underway and may take more than a year to complete. In reviewing neighborhood concerns, the committee has worked on identifying both streets with heavy truck volumes where truck traffic is least desirable and streets to which it may be appropriate to direct trucks traveling to destinations in Cambridge. These efforts may result in a two part truck traffic management plan that includes 1) proposed truck restrictions to prohibit through truck traffic from certain streets and 2) designated routes that provide a reasonable alternative for these trucks to travel. The committee has spent a considerable amount of time discussing the legal and regulatory issues affecting local truck restrictions. These regulations must be authorized by the state through the Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD). The City's ability to implement desired truck traffic restrictions is dependent on approval by the MHD, or, in the event of MHD denial, the approval of the court. The state and federal legislation, regulation

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and related case law leave unanswered important questions about the type and extent of restrictions that a local community may place on truck traffic. With the guidance that is available, the committee is working to develop a plan that is likely to obtain the approval of MHD.

The committee is working very hard to prepare a report and recommendations to submit to you before year's end. I will keep you informed of progress toward that goal.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

Consent Agenda #19

5-492

Relative to Awaiting Report Item Number
Eleven, regarding an update on the activities
of the Truck Advisory Committee.

*for original order see
1996 City Manager
Requests # 367.*

In City Council October 7, 1996

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