

THE EASTERN CAMBRIDGE CITIZENS COMMITTEE AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE TRUCK TRAFFIC IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS

Our group of Cambridge Citizens intends to develop proposals for a unified City Policy to regulate truck traffic through residential neighborhoods east of Harvard Square. We know that the neighborhood truck problems of East Cambridge, Wellington-Harrington, Cambridgeport, Riverside, and Model Cities are all caused by the same root causes. We also know that isolated neighborhood associations can not generate sufficient political influence to help themselves, partly because of inter-neighborhood conflict which we must eliminate and partly because most authority to regulate trucks rests in the State Government which is too large and complex for neighborhood groups to deal with. A unified City Policy, which doesn't play one neighborhood off against another and which would solidify all the City's political influence around one set of proposals, is our only recourse.

In order to emphasize the importance of our Committee's activities, we request the Cambridge City Council to officially proclaim the existence of ourselves as a standing committee of representatives from each of the above named neighborhoods with the mandate to perform the following tasks:

1. Determine the extent of destruction from truck traffic by soliciting neighborhood opinion about noise pollution, house destruction from truck vibration, broken street surfaces from over-sized trucks, safety hazards, etc.
2. Outline these problems for the whole area in neighborhood association meetings as well as for the City Council and in the general news media, the latter because most important policy changes must take place at the state level.
3. Recommend new City Policy for the coordinated direction of all relevant city personnel in a sustained effort to remove all loud and over-sized trucks from residential streets.

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March 27, 1972

Referred to the
Committee on Transportation