



The Cambridge Hospital



1493 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 (617) 498-1000

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From: John O'Brien, CEO, The Cambridge Hospital

Re: Council Order #074, dated 3/4/96

Extension of proposed shuttle between The Cambridge Hospital
and Central Square

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The proposal recently submitted to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council by The Cambridge Hospital and endorsed by the City of Cambridge requests funding for one vehicle, running continuously from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., five days a week including holidays, 260 days a year. It will travel four circuits each hour, covering approximately one mile in every complete route. Free of charge and open to the public, the vehicle will be a 15 passenger, 1996 chassis, ADA accessible shuttle bus operated under contract with a vendor to be selected through a formalized bid process.

The proposed shuttle route was designed to make a very concentrated travel loop and a short headway (time between arrivals). As planned, the shuttle will make a complete trip approximately every fifteen to twenty minutes, even during peak hours. This amount of time has been shown to be the maximum that a traveller will comfortably wait for transportation. If this route is extended, the waiting time will be longer, and the number of people choosing to take the shuttle instead of driving to their destinations will decrease. The short headway is also an important consideration when planning the budget of this venture. Lengthening the route by even a few blocks doubles that section of the route and alters the cost of the shuttle significantly. The project costs are \$153,058 for the first year, and \$148,058 for the second year, with a local "overmatch," provided by The Cambridge Hospital, of \$34,558 for the first year, and \$29,558 for the second year.

The purpose of this reimbursable funding, a component of the ISTEA's Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program, and the basis by which funding is awarded, is to "increase high occupancy vehicle use, reduce the number of vehicles using the road system, reduce the amount of vehicle miles travelled (VMT), reduce the number of vehicle trips traveled, and/or reduce trip chaining behavior." This shuttle system was planned to accomplish these

goals by reducing automobile use, cold starts, and commuter miles and trips by The Cambridge Hospital staff and its patients and visitors, as well as its neighbors, who will all be encouraged to use the Red Line at Central Square for their travel by the creation of this link.

Unfortunately, this funding goal would not be accomplished by stopping at the high school or the Cambridge Public Library, since student trips there are primarily not automobile trips, and the library trips are primarily "off-peak" trips, too sporadic to create a critical mass to justify the route extension and lengthened headways.

The need to provide a service of this nature to these institutions is not currently significant statistically. The #1 bus is a public transit service that links Central and Harvard Squares and Quincy Street, which is a short walk to the library and the high school. According to the Cambridge Commuter Survey, the Public Library only has a 35% SOV (single occupant vehicle) rate, with 22.3% of staff already walking to work. In addition, the Central Square branch library, while small, has a new computer system which enables patrons to reserve and obtain main library books.

However, if the proposal is funded and the route is established and ridership documented, there is a possibility of extending the route during non-peak hours (mid-day) if the shuttle is found to be underutilized during that time. There is also the possibility of revising and extending the fleet as we approach this and/or other funding sources for more TDM support in the coming years.



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

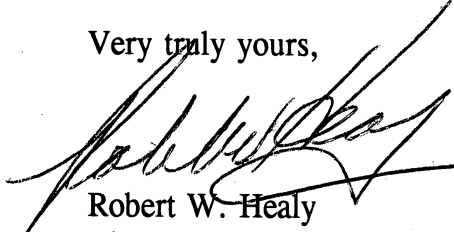
RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

May 13, 1996

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 13, regarding an extension of proposed shuttle between the Hospital and Central Square, received from John O'Brien, CEO of The Cambridge Hospital Community Health Network.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda #2

S-271

Relative to Awaiting Report Item
Number Thirteen, regarding an
extension of the proposed shuttle
between the Hospital and Central
Square.

In City Council May 13, 1996

Placed on file