



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Traffic, Parking and Transportation
57 Inman Street,
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Susan E. Clippinger
Director

Administration 349-4700
Parking Violations 349-4705
Resident Parking 349-4701

January 5, 1999

TO: Robert Healy, City manager

FROM: Susan E. Clippinger, Director 

SUBJECT: Council Order #046 dated 12/7/98

RE: Report on making Meacham Road a one way

We received a petition from the residents of Meacham Road to change the street to one way northbound. The section of the street in Somerville is one way southbound. The Department requested that the residents work with Somerville residents to see if there was support for requesting Somerville to make Meacham between Locke and Orchard one way northbound. This would then direct cars on the new northbound section of Meacham northbound to Orchard and then back on Dover to Mass. Ave. We contacted the City of Somerville to tell them about the possible change and request their support. The residents of Meacham Road then contacted us to say that they did not have enough time to talk to Somerville residents. Therefore, a change to make Meacham Road one way only to Locke Street would mean that all cars on Meacham Road both from Cambridge and from Somerville would be forced to turn onto Locke Street and then onto Woodbridge.

The Department then sent a post card survey to the residents of Locke Street, Meacham Road and Woodbridge Street asking their opinion about making Meacham Road one way from Mass. Ave. to Locke Street. Forty two forms were sent out in October, 1998. As of December 19, 1998, 32 cards have been received with 15 against one way and 17 for one way

Remain as is	15	47%
Change to one way	17	53%
Total	32	100%

Changing Meacham to one way will increase traffic on Locke and Woodbridge. We do not have names or addresses on most of the responses to the post card survey so we do not know if either support or opposition was greater on one street than the other.

99 JAN -7 AM 10:26
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The Department will not be making the street one way northbound because of the opposition to the change and because we do not see shifting traffic from one residential street to another as an appropriate change.

Many comments were received stating their concern over the speed of vehicles on Meacham Road, which is one of the primary reasons why residents had requested making the street one way. We received a petition to lower the speed limit signed by many of the residents of Meacham Road who signed the original petition for one way. Our speed check found that the 85 percentile was 24 MPH from Mass. Ave. and 27 MPH toward Mass. Ave. Our experience and that of other cities and towns shows that the speed of traffic usually increases when a street is made one way.

We will now conduct a full speed study and submit a request to the Mass. Highway Department to reduce the speed limit on Meacham Road early this year.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307



25.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

January 11, 1999

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 28, regarding a report on making Meacham Road a one-way, received from Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #25

S42

Relative to AR 28 regarding a report on
making Meacham Road a one-way.

In City Council January 11, 1999

PLACED ON FILE