



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
City Hall Annex - Inman & Broadway - Cambridge, Mass. 02139

(617) 876-6800
EXTENSION 344

TO: James L. Sullivan, City Manager

FROM: Edward A. Handy, Transportation Coordinator DATE: 6/19/74

SUBJECT: Proposed Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge over Boston and Maine Tracks
at Fresh Pond Shopping Center

On behalf of the City Council Committee on Public Safety, the City Clerk's Office has asked our staff to give you a brief status report on the proposed pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the Boston and Maine right-of-way in the vicinity of Rindge Towers and Jefferson Park.

Based on information from MDC and the State DPW, we believe that this bridge will be built by the State with Federal funds under PL 93-87, but will not be completed before mid-1977, and possibly as much as a year later.

This is because both Federal and State law require an Environmental Impact Statement for the project. The "EIS" will be prepared as part of a larger-scale EIS covering the DPW's overall "Alewife Highway Improvements Program." The EIS work is expected to take 18 to 24 months; design and construction will take another 18 to 24 months.

At a recent meeting of the City Council's Public Safety Committee, a report on the relationship of the proposed bridge to the MDC skating rink and dump-reclamation projects was made by Richard Lockhart of our staff. The Committee asked the City Clerk's Office to request that you contact Bruce Campbell regarding the possibility that the pedestrian bridge can be expedited. It is possible that we could develop an agreement with the State that the pedestrian/bicycle bridge will be treated as a separate project. It is also possible that we could secure a "negative declaration" as regards the need for an "EIS". Were we successful on both counts, the bridge might be completed in as little as two years, instead of three to four.

The public safety problem involved is substantial now, however, and will increase with the completion of the MDC skating rink on New Street in about 18 months. For this reason, it may be advisable to look into the practicability of alternatives for short-term safety measures.

Further information on the relationship of the bridge to the MDC rink and the dump site can best be supplied by Dick Lockhart, who has done most of our staff work on this project since it began in May, 1973. Should you want further information on the DPW planning and design time-table as a basis for contacting Mr. Campbell, please let me know.

cc: Francis H. Duehay
James L. Farrell
Paul E. Healy
Richard Lockhart
Leonard J. Russell
George Teso

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Status report on the proposed pedestrian/
bicycle bridge over the Boston and Maine
right-of-way in the vicinity of Rindge
towers and Jefferson Park.

In City Council,

July 22, 1974

7/24/74
Placed on File -
Copy to Commissioner