



19.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

April 23, 2001

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 01-157, regarding a report on improving the visibility of signage prohibiting left turns for drivers approaching Massachusetts Avenue from Western Avenue, Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger reports the following:

The Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department conducted a site inspection on March 29, 2001 with two Cambridge Police Department representatives and Councillor Davis. We observed vehicle and pedestrian traffic patterns and discussed some possible modifications to reduce some of the confusion currently occurring in the intersection. The following improvements were agreed upon and will be implemented over the next four to eight weeks.

1. On Western Avenue at Massachusetts Avenue facing north: The solid green light ball on the mast arm side mount pole on the traffic median will be replaced to a straight arrow to match the other driver's side traffic signal heads at this intersection.
2. On the same pole as above: A "No Left Turn" pictorial sign will be installed on the overhead mast arm signal pole also facing north. (Prospect Street traffic)
3. Within the whole intersection: Pavement marking arrows will be installed on all the approaches to the intersection to give drivers a detailed travel lane legal movement. These pavement markings will reduce confusion.

This intersection has major traffic volumes, with many legal and illegal turning vehicles. The current signing on the Mass. Ave approaches to the intersection is already well signed. The illegal turning movements are occurring due to a combination of confusion by drivers who don't understand the uncommon left turn restriction at this typical four-way intersection and frustration with the restrictions. We believe these changes should cleanup the overall sign pollution appearance in the intersection and reduce driver confusion. However, this is a location that will always need periodic enforcement of the left turn restrictions, which are critical to managing the traffic volumes in Central Square.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy".

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec



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Consent Agenda #19

Awaiting Report Item Number
01-157, regarding a report on
improving the visibility of
signage prohibiting left turns
for drivers approaching
Massachusetts Avenue from
Western Avenue.

In City Council April 23, 2001

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