

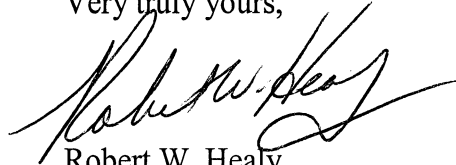
The Honorable, The City Council
October 1, 2001
Page 2

City staff from the Department of Public Works, Community Development Department, Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, and the Fire Department reviewed and approved the design plans prior to construction.

Throughout the construction process, city staff from all of these various departments have been monitoring the operation of the redesigned square. The Fire Department has visited the site and performed several test runs, and has determined that the lane widths and turning radii are satisfactory for their trucks. The Department of Public Works does not anticipate any problems with snow clearance in Sheridan Square. In the past winters, snow plowing equipment has not had problems working in similarly constructed areas throughout the city.

A project evaluation of the Sheridan Square and Rindge Avenue improvements will be conducted over the next six to nine months. The evaluation will include speed and volume studies, pedestrian crossing studies, extensive observations, and a survey of residents.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", written in a cursive style.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

1. *Phlox pilularis* (L.)

2. *Phlox pilularis* (L.)



9.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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

October 1, 2001

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 01-227, regarding a report on the traffic project at Sheridan Square, Assistant City Manager for Community Development Beth Rubenstein and Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger report the following:

The planning for the redesign of Sheridan Square began in 1995 with the completion of *The Comprehensive Planning for Trolley Square and Sheridan Square Report*. This report described Sheridan Square as "a consistent picture of speeding cars, and undefined traffic patterns." The report called for increasing pedestrian safety in the square.

The Community Development Department undertook the redesign of Sheridan Square as part of its Traffic Calming Program in conjunction with scheduled roadway and sidewalk work on Rindge Avenue planned by the Department of Public Works. Three community meetings were held regarding the redesign and construction of Sheridan Square between March and November 1999. Each meeting was well attended by 20 to 30 residents. Prior to each meeting, press releases were sent to the newspapers, flyers were delivered to adjacent residents, and mailings were sent.

The pre-meeting mailings contained detailed plans outlining the various alternatives to be discussed. This allowed residents to have an advance understanding of what was going to be discussed at the meetings. It also gave residents an opportunity to comment on the design even if they could not attend the meetings.

The final design of Sheridan Square was developed through this community process and includes improvements that make the streets safer for people to walk, bike and drive. Throughout the design process residents expressed concerns about the wide open, confusing space; the excess amount of pavement; the speed of vehicles; and the lack of drivers yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks. The overall goals of the design are to reduce speeds and improve the safety for all users of the square.



3455

Consent Agenda #9

Awaiting Report Item
Number 01-227, regarding a
report on the traffic project at
Sheridan Square.

In City Council October 1, 2001

ORDER ADOPTED