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15 Pennypacker
Cambridge, MA
02138

Cambridge City Council

March 5, 1985

Cambridge, MA 02140

Dear Councilmen and Councilwomen,

Harvard Square is almost finished and it is wonderful. The new subway entrance is a marvel and a fitting celebration of mass transit. May I suggest one improvement for pedestrians and car drivers alike:

Because there are so many people trying to cross the street in front of the Coop and the newstand, cars are often stopped, pedestrians are often narrowly missed and the whole intersection is a chaotic, antagonistic, situation.

Would you please consider retiming the lights in Harvard Square so that the work on fast intervals like the lights do in front of MIT on Mass. Ave. These lights go green for approximately 30 seconds and then red for 15 seconds. Pedestrians are willing to wait for 30 seconds and then cross together; traffic seems to move more smoothly; and the dangerous and nerve-racking situation of pedestrians dashing across the street between cars is avoided. Watch the pedestrians and the traffic at MIT and you will see a very different relationship between drivers and walkers.

(If you really want to do something about pedestrian safety in Harvard Square you might consider putting more crosswalks and lights on the eastern side of Mass. Ave, particularly near the Hong Kong restaurant and at Holyoke Street---cars tend to really speed up on this straightaway, much to the distress and danger of pedestrians. Also the bushes on the island at the intersection of Quincy, Harvard, Mass Ave and Bow Street make it impossible for cars coming from Quincy Street to see oncoming Mass Avenue traffic and pedestrians. I witnessed another accident there this afternoon. The island is nice, but the bushes completely obstruct the vital view.)

Thank you for your attention to this problem.

Sincerely,

Belle Zars

Belle Zars

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Comm. from Belle Zars Re: pedestrian traffic
in Harvard Square, suggesting that the
traffic lights in the Square be re-timed to
work on fast intervals.

*copy sent to the City Manager
& Traffic Director 3/14/85 mlh*

In City Council,

March 11, 1985

3/11/1985

*Referred to the
City Manager and
Traffic Dept for
Report.*