

**Abt Associates Inc.**  
55 Wheeler Street • Cambridge • Massachusetts 02138-1168  
Telephone: (617) 492-7100  
Fax: (617) 492-5219

September 11, 1989

Sheila Russell  
City Council  
City Hall  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mrs. Russell:

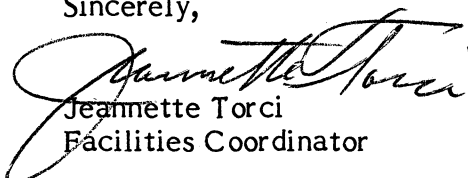
Louise Hadden, an employee at Abt Associates Inc., was severely beaten by an unknown party(ies) while crossing the railroad tracks behind the AKU-AKU on August 23rd. It was approximately 1:30 PM and she was coming from the Alewife MBTA station to Abt Associates. The assault resulted in 10 hours of surgery on Louise's face, jaw, cheekbone, nose, teeth, etc.

The reason I'm writing to you, and I have asked our employees to do the same, is to draw attention to what has happened to Louise and I'm sure there have been other incidents that people don't even know about. This is a very unsafe area. I have spoken to some of our neighboring companies whose employees use these "short cuts" from the MBTA station to save time, Bolt, Breneck & Newman on this side and Arthur D. Little going the other way, to warn them of the danger. The proposed plan to widen the Truss Bridge would be one way of solving part of this problem. As you know there is a sidewalk only on one side of the bridge which forces people walking from the MBTA to cross route 16 at the Rindge Avenue lights (which is almost impossible at rush hour because motorists turning left from Rindge Avenue onto the bridge do not stop for the pedestrian yellow light).

I am a life long resident and home owner in North Cambridge. I have raised six children in this neighborhood and have always worked in the area. I am also someone who is guilty of using some of these "short cuts" which I will never do again. But how many people are unaware of this and other incidents that have happened until it happens to someone they know? With so many people walking from the MBTA station and the days becoming shorter, will we continue to have this problem? What can be done to alert the public? We are looking to your office for help in solving some of these problems, whether it be speeding things up on the bridge replacement with sidewalks on both sides (proposed starting date is spring of 1990), or more lighting in the Rindge Avenue extension area, or having warning signs posted that this is an unsafe area. The MBTA is very concerned about having enough parking for people dropping off their cars, but what about the people using the "T" who leave the station and have to walk to their destination?

Please, if there is anything that you can do or any suggestions that you may have let us know. We are concerned and want to make this area a safe place in which to live and work.

Sincerely,

  
Jeanette Torci  
Facilities Coordinator

6. S-613

Comm. from Jeannette Torci, Facilities  
Coordinator, Abt Associates, Inc., regarding  
the unsafe conditions which exist around the  
Alewife MBTA Station.

In City Council,

Sept. 18, 1989

Referred to City  
manager to report  
back to CC. whatever  
steps necessary to  
avoid further concerns  
by those individuals  
working & use the T  
station in the Alewife  
area.