

Traffic Board Meeting
February 23, 1977.

Present: Chairman Vincent Panico, Dick Easler, Capt. ~~John~~ ^{Laurence} Brutti, Jim Thomson, DPW, John Pitkin, Deputy Chief Gelinas, George Teso, Lauren Preston and Dave Bryant.

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1. Bennett Street Yards:

Harvard University is constructing the John F. Kennedy School of Government, consisting of two buildings. One is being constructed on Boylston St., with the other to be built later. When complete the school will accommodate 500 students. Lauren Preston informed the Board that the University had discussed their plans with the Traffic Department. We have worked with the Harvard Planner and have had meetings with the Business Community and neighbor groups. All plans on Harvard Square will be brought to the next Traffic Board Meeting.

2. Central Square Traffic:

Complaints have been received that during the evening rush hours MBTA buses are parked three abreast loading and unloading passengers, thus obstructing the flow of traffic through the square. Capt. Brutti said he would instruct the Police Dept. Night Shift to investigate the situation and clear it up.

3. Night Tagging:

Not much is being done as Mr. Teso is reluctant to put Parking Control Officers out on the street at night. The Police Dept. has only one officer tagging at night as a trouble shooter. He tags only on complaints but will tag and tow if the situation demands.

4. Iced-in-cars:

Jim Thompson reported that last week the DPW dug out over 200 iced-in-cars. His only complaint was that in many cases as soon as the car was freed, the owner would appear from nowhere, get in the car and drive off and there is not much anyone can do about it.

5. Tow-and-Hold:

We are still at an impasse in getting information on violators who ignore parking tickets. The Court promised to work with us and will issue summonses if we get them the information. The Computer at the School Department cannot handle the load. We cannot, at the present time, send anyone to the Court to do it by hand, as for the past two months we have been extremely busy issuing Resident Parking Stickers for the New Year. Monday we are going before the City Council for an appropriation of \$20,000 to start a pilot program to process our own parking tickets. General Data Services, Inc., the Company that computes the data on our Resident Sticker Program will start a pilot program in May to see if they can gather the information needed. If the program is

successful, when the contract with Boston expires, we will go with the new company, but we will have to stay with Boston for the tickets issued prior to 1977. The cost of this program will be \$150,000/yr. This includes processing Arlington, Belmont and MDC tickets. Judge Feloney said he will process 700 summonses a day and put an extra Judge on if necessary to keep up to date. The Harvard Police do their own tagging and if a citation is issued to a student, \$25.00 is added to his tuition bill. The University also provided the City with the Name, Addresses and registration of all students who register their cars with them.

6. Visitor Permits:

We know that the use of Visitor Permits is being abused and our Parking Control Officers have been instructed to be on the look out for violations. It is impossible for them to spot all of these violations and citizen participation is necessary.

7. Tow Companies:

The Tow Companies are under investigation by the Attorney General's Office and criminal action may be taken against some. As the law reads now, a tow during a snow emergency can cost no more than at any other time. We would like to see this increased and so would the tow companies. If a tow charge is over \$17.00 it must be itemized. Tow companies are required by law to post their rates in a conspicuous spot in their place of business. The officer who authorizes the tow, must on the stub of the ticket make note of any damage to the vehicle and its contents.

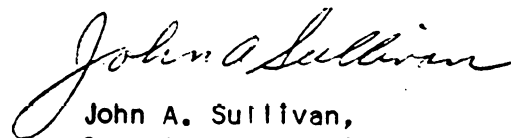
8. Financial Reports on Parking Fund Income were explained.

9. Hospital Parking:

Attendants and a booth should be installed at the Cambridge Hospital by April 1st. One dollar per day, per space, will be required to meet expenses.

10. Request for Visitor Permits:

Were reviewed by Mr. Panico, Mr. Pitkin and Mr. Teso.


John A. Sullivan,
Secretary, Traffic Board

S-174

Comm. from John A. Sullivan, Secretary of the
Traffic Board, transmitting the report of the
meeting of the Traffic Board held on 2/23/77.

In City Council,
March 28, 1977

3/28/77
Placed on File