



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 876-6800

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JOHN H. CORCORAN
City Manager

May 14, 1973

The Honorable, The City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Councillors:

The untimely loss of a young life last week on the tracks of the Boston and Maine Railroad deepens the concern that all of us have had for the safety of those who must cross those tracks by foot.

There is no question in any of our minds that a pedestrian overpass must be provided between Sherman Street and Alewife Brook Parkway as soon as possible. In the Council Order of December 4, 1972, regarding the M.D.C. North Cambridge skating rink, construction of such an overpass was called for to be completed prior to the opening of the rink. At that time, the City applied for Federal and State funds under the TOPICS program for the construction of the overpass. Further, Representative O'Neil has filed a bill in the General Court for State sponsorship of this facility, and the Council has endorsed that bill.

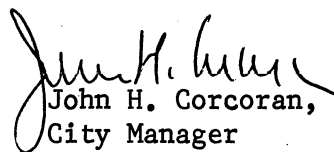
The TOPICS application was approved by the State as eligible and was forwarded to the Federal Highway Administration in Washington for their approval. We have just been informed today that the Highway Administration has determined that this project is not eligible because it "will not contribute to improved traffic operations or pedestrian safety on the nearby Federal-aid systems", which is the principal objective of the TOPICS program.

The 1973 Federal-Aid Highway legislation will contain significant changes from its predecessors, particularly Section D, the Urban System Program, and may well include funds for projects such as the overpass.

The TOPICS program, as such, will be phased out. I have directed the Traffic Department and the Planning and Development Department to keep informed on these changes, as they develop, and prepare at the appropriate time any and all requests for State and Federal funds that may be applicable to the overpass project.

This legislation is in joint House/Senate conference now, and may appear for full Congress vote within the next few weeks.

Very truly yours,


John H. Corcoran,
City Manager

JHC/jfl

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Agenda # 17

Comm. from John H. Coreoran, City Manager,
relative to a pedestrian overpass between
Sherman St. and Alewife Brk. Pkwy.

In City Council,

May 14, 1973

Placed on File -

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