



City of Cambridge

Committee Report #2

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 5, 1999

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That traffic calming measures should be used as soon as possible as a deterrent to truck traffic and truck speed.

In City Council April 5, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

Committee Report #2

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 5, 1999

COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to invite representatives from the communities of Watertown, Somerville, Belmont, Arlington and Boston to the Ordinance Committee hearing scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 1999 on the Karen Falb, et al. zoning petition.

In City Council April 5, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

that there is nothing that can be done to prevent all trucks from travelling down streets. Trucks such as fire apparatus, emergency vehicles, DPW trucks, oil trucks need access, she said. Mr. Hamann stated that if cars cannot illegally park at corners emergency vehicles can mount corners to get around the corner. Ms. Watkins stated that illegal parked cars at corners is a big issue for emergency vehicles.

Councillor Russell stated that if the City makes it too difficult for trucks to make deliveries, truck drivers will back up. Then they cannot see children and/or pedestrians. Ms. Cara Seiderman from the Community Development Department stated that the official term is "crashes". The word "accident", she said insinuates that no one is at fault when someone is at fault. Curb extensions, she stated, encourage trucks to go slow.

Mr. Hamann stated that Huron Avenue has become safer because cars are channeled down the lane because of the bike lane.

Ms. Watkins stated that a full six-inch curb will be installed on Concord Avenue. Ms. Sue Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation, stated that with the installation of the barrels on Concord Avenue there has been a five miles per hour speed reduction seen. Councillor Russell stated that the Truck Team is also effective.

The Committee heard from Tom Bracken, 89 Irving Street, who stated that his observation of the barrels on Concord Avenue is that the barrels have no effect on truck traffic.

The Committee heard from Doug Lee, 33 Lexington Avenue, who stated that the painted lines do not change perception. He stated that the barrels do have an effect, but the painted lines do not have any effect on traffic.

At this time Councillor Davis made the following motion:

ORDERED: That traffic calming measures should be used as soon as possible as a deterrent to truck traffic and truck speed.

The motion carried on a voice vote.

A discussion arose on the issue of a nighttime truck ban.

Mr. Bracken stated that the Truck Report B was submitted by six members of the Truck Advisory Committee, The Committee included in its recommendations a nighttime truck ban. Truck Report A favored a nighttime truck ban. He stated that Truck Report B was the cause of the Zoning Amendment Petition known as the Falb petition. The petition urges the City Council to amend the Zoning Ordinance to put in effect a truck ban in the City from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. He informed the

Committee that the Planning Board held its public hearing on Tuesday, March 16, 1999 and the City Council will be holding its public hearing on March 24, 1999. He stated that at the Planning Board's hearing representatives from Somerville and Watertown expressed their concern that the action of the City of Cambridge will have an adverse effect on their communities.

Councillor Russell asked Deputy City Solicitor Don Drisdell if the neighboring communities object to the actions of the City Council can they prevent the action. Mr. Drisdell stated that the communities will have avenues to submit a challenge. Arguments could be made on the federal law if abutting cities and towns are affected by the actions of Cambridge, he said.

Mr. Bracken stated that he was surprised that Somerville has objected because Somerville put a nighttime truck ban on Washington Street. It would be a common interest to all other communities, he said. Councillor Russell stated that it was important for Cambridge to get other communities involved with this issue. Mr. Bracken stated that there are ways to accomplish this, such as the Regional Study and to amend the Zoning Ordinances.

Councillor Davis asked about the progress of meeting with other communities. Ms. Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation, stated that progress is slow.

Mr. Lee stated that if trucks are blocked in one area they appear somewhere else. If trucks cannot go through Cambridge and trucks cannot go through Somerville and Watertown the trucks will need to take the regional route, he said. Mr. Bracken stated that representatives from Belmont, Watertown and Somerville were at the Planning Board's public hearing. The representatives stated that their communities should do what Cambridge is doing.

Councillors Russell and Davis made the following motion:

ORDERED That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to invite representatives from the communities of Watertown, Somerville, Belmont, Arlington and Boston to the Ordinance Committee hearing scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 1999 on the Karen Falb, et al zoning petition.

The motion –

Carried.

(NOTE: On March 19, 1999 the City Clerk sent additional letters to the abutting cities and town that were addressed to the Administrators, CEO's and Managers.)

At this time Councillor Davis turned the attention of those present at the meeting to the matrix entitled **“DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS OF TRUCK REPORTS AND RESPONSES.”** Councillor Davis asked that any additions to the matrix be forwarded to her. She stated that she would be publishing recommendation at the end of the truck hearing process.

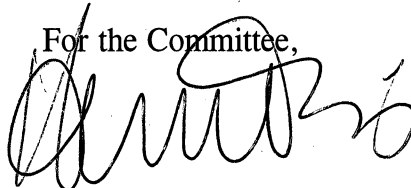
Councillor Davis stated that she would like written material on the Boston Ban. Deputy City Solicitor Don Drisdell stated that the Massachusetts Turnpike bans HAZMAT vehicles from the tunnels.

Councillor Davis stated that the regional area is the area that needs the most work.

Ms. Seiderman stated that she would like the matrix to reflect the motion made at this meeting on traffic calming measures. The action on traffic calming was so noted on the matrix.

On motion of Councillor Davis at six o'clock and thirty minutes p. m. the meeting adjourned.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henrietta Davis', written over the text 'For the Committee,'.

Councillor Henrietta Davis
Chair

City of Cambridge

In City Council April 5, 1999

The Traffic and Transportation Committee conducted a public meeting on Thursday, March 18, 1999 at five o'clock and thirty-five minutes p. m. in the Sullivan Chamber.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss traffic calming and the nighttime truck ban.

Present at the meeting were: Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair of the Committee, Councillor Sheila Russell, Don Drisdell, Deputy City Solicitor, Sue Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Cara Seiderman and Kathy Watkins from the Community Development Department and Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk.

At the start of the meeting Ms. Kathy Watkins from the Community Development Department presented a slide presentation on traffic calming. She informed the Committee that traffic calming includes elimination of speeding as well as confusion for both pedestrians and motorists. Traffic calming measures are used to reduce speed to attain a consistent rate of speed on streets, she stated. She stated that a survey was done on traffic calming on streets, which included bike lanes, and speed was reduced by three percent (3%). Traffic calming devices that are used are raised intersections, construction of bollards, curb extensions and chicanes, or bumps, in the road. Curb extensions, she said, prevent cars from illegally parking at corners. Concord Avenue will have a pedestrian refuge island added to protect pedestrians, she said. Ms. Watkins informed the Committee that chicanes will be added to Columbia Street in the Spring. A raised crosswalk will be added on Columbia Street at Washington Park, she stated.

Mr. Ted Hamann, 106 Holworthy Street asked how many parking spaces will be lost when the work is done on Columbia Street. Ms. Watkins responded that the parking will be alternated on both sides Columbia Street. Usually, she stated, parking spaces are added when this device is used.

Councillor Russell asked if a traffic circle will be added to Sheridan Square. Ms. Watkins responded in the negative. Residents of the area, she said, do not want a traffic circle.

Councillor Davis stated that the issue surrounding trucks is speeding. She asked if traffic calming can slow down trucks throughout the City. Ms. Watkins stated that all aspects of traffic calming will slow down traffic and trucks. Ms. Watkins stated

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A report from Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair of the Traffic and Transportation Committee, for a meeting held on March 18, 1999 for the purpose of discussing traffic calming and the nighttime truck ban.

In City Council April 5, 1999

Report Accepted

PLACED ON FILE

ORDER ADOPTED