



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

April 26, 1976

To the Honorable, the City Council:

The City Council has requested information on the status of the Granite Street bus route. The following is a summary of and current status of that route.

During the past few months the City Council has expressed a concern over the level of bus service currently being provided to the residents of Cambridgeport. In response to this concern, I will outline the events that resulted in the implementation of the circumferential route from Central Square to Boston City Hospital via the Fenway Medical-Institutional area, and state how bus service in Cambridgeport will soon be improved.

For several years the City had been receiving requests from Cambridge residents for direct bus service to the medical facilities located along Longwood Avenue in Boston. To reach these facilities from Cambridge, residents, many of them elderly, had to travel all the way into Park Street and then travel back out on one of the Green Line routes with some making transfers at Kenmore Square for the Brookline Avenue bus routes. This trip usually took over an hour.

As a result of these requests the City prepared a proposal, dated April 23, 1974, to provide a circumferential bus route which would meet this need. The proposal was presented to the Cambridge Transportation Forum where it was approved and forwarded to the City Council. On June 19, 1974, the Council's Committee on Transportation held a public hearing attended by Councillors Ackermann, Clinton, Duehay, Russell and Vellucci where the proposed service was approved for implementation.

After a year of negotiations with the MBTA, Boston, Brookline and Boston University, the current route 47 was approved and service began in September of 1975. The route has been a tremendous success when measured by all standards. However, one problem did arise with the termination of the Granite Street loop. The elderly population at the low end of Magazine Street found the extra one to two block walk to be a problem for trips to Central Square especially in the winter months.

To rectify this problem, the MBTA has now agreed to reroute the inbound buses on the Oak Square to Central Square route (#64) to serve the Magazine Street area of Cambridgeport. Starting in June of this year inbound buses will travel to Central Square via River Street, Putnam Avenue and Magazine Street between 9 A.M. and 7 P.M. Monday through Friday. This rerouting will eliminate the inconvenience to these residents resulting from the establishment of the circumferential route across the B. U. Bridge.

John Hixon of the Cambridge Transportation Forum is hoping to meet with members of the Cambridgeport Alliance and other interested citizens in Cambridgeport later this month to work out bus stops and other details for both the present and circumferential (#47) bus and rerouted Oak Square-Central Square (#64) bus.

In addition, the current Block Grant Application contains \$3500 to investigate the potential for an Elderly Intra-City Van Transportation System. Cambridgeport will be one of the areas covered by this study.

Very truly yours,

James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/nc

Agenda #6

S-162

Re: to the status of the Granite St. Bus
route.

In City Council,
April 26, 1976

-Placed on File-