

Stop & Shop - Transportation Committee Discussions

April 28, 1994

Transportation Committee Issue Matrix				
Possible Conditions:	Impact On: Truck Traffic	Impact On: Auto Traffic	Impact On: Parking	Impact On: Other
Magazine Street - Trucks:				
Truck restriction North of Granite Street	Forces all trucks to use Granite or Pleasant	None	None	
Trucks restricted North of Putnam	Trucks on Magazine South of Putnam, trucks on Putnam	None	None	Need to improve intersection at Magazine and Putnam
Trucks - General Restrictions				
Store restrictions on truck delivery hours to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday - Saturday	No trucks from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Concentrates all trucks between 7 a.m. & 7 p.m.	More trucks in traffic during unrestricted hours	None	May increase loading dock traffic
Magazine Street - Autos Restrictions:				
"Do Not Enter":				
at Memorial Drive	None	Small decrease on Magazine, increase on Brookline, Pleasant and smaller streets	None	
North of Stop & Shop opposite Granite	Forces all traffic to use Granite or Pleasant	Decreases traffic on Magazine, increase on Brookline, Pleasant and smaller streets plus Granite	Decreased overflow parking on Magazine and connected side streets, increased use of Granite	
"Residential Only" for Moving Traffic	None	Prohibited by State and Federal law		

**Transportation
Committee
Issue Matrix**

Possible Conditions:	Impact On: Truck Traffic	Impact On: Auto Traffic	Impact On: Parking	Impact On: Other
"Neighborhood Resident Only" for parking	None	Slight decrease in autos looking for parking	If sticker by district - would provide some reduction on neighborhood streets	Rejected by Council from Clean Air Ordinance
Granite Street - Auto				
One Way on Granite (Reverse the flow) Present	None			Adverse impact on MBTA, School Bus service

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Pleasant Street - Auto Traffic				
One Way - south	All trucks (incl. HOJO) Must exit on Magazine	All traffic must exit on Magazine	May allow additional on street parking on Pleasant	Access problem for HOJO - enter through neigh.
One Way - North	All trucks must enter on Magazine	All traffic must enter on Magazine	May allow additional on street parking on Pleasant	Access problem for HOJO - exit through neigh.
Truck Access				
Create multi-purpose roadway from River to Pleasant	Trucks off of Putnam, Pleasant and Magazine	Some autos off of Putnam, Pleasant and Magazine	None	Major Land taking involving parcels of: Polaroid Com Electric Elbery Ford May create unusable parcels
Widen and/or shift Pleasant Street	Move one direction of traffic away from houses Improve turning at Putnam and Pleasant	None	May add parking on Pleasant	Major Land taking involving parcels of: Polaroid

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Parking				
"Neighborhood Resident Only" for parking		Slight decrease in autos looking for parking	If sticker by district - would provide some reduction on neighborhood streets	Rejected by Council from Clean Air Ordinance
Off Site Employee Parking	None	Only Employee Cars would not go to the site	Would increase available parking for customers - therefore some reduction in use of public streets Problem if employees use resident sticker to park on neigh. streets	Shuttle to offsite parking in and out of site would add shuttle vehicles to traffic flow increased cost of operation, prices
Bundle delivery for local neighborhood	None	Could reduce local traffic	Slight reduction	Small van activity increase
General bundle delivery	None	reduction only if coupled with call-in system for ordering from beyond ordering distance		Cost?
Jitney Service In Neighborhood	None	Small reduction, use mostly expected by elderly, those without cars	Small improvement, with use mostly expected by elderly, those without cars	

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Safety/Enforcement Improvements				
Crossing Guards	None	Control during school hours for crossing	None	
Detail at Magazine and Memorial Drive	None	Ensure intersection is not blocked	None	

NPSD-2S&JMMTRX.SP5

The Traffic and Transportation Committee conducted a public hearing on Thursday, April 28, 1994 at five o'clock and forty-one minutes p. m. in the Sullivan Chamber, City Hall.

Councillor Jonathan S. Myers, Chair of the above referenced committee convened the hearing and stated that the purpose of this dates proceedings was to continue discussion of the proposed Stop & Shop project and traffic amelioration for the neighborhood.

Present at the hearing were: Councillor Francis H. Duehay, Councillor Michael A. Sullivan, Representative Alvin Thompson, Elizabeth Epstein, Environment Program Director, Lauren Preston, Deputy Director of Traffic and Parking, Richard Easler, Chief Project Planner, John E. Flynn, Deputy City Clerk and Stuart Dash, Planner.

To begin the discussion, the Chair provided a recap of the Committee's previous meeting on this issue. Upon conclusion, the Chair recognized Ms. Epstein for a presentation.

Ms. Epstein stated that this presentation represented the ideas and suggestions made at the previous meeting being reduced to writing. She noted that the ideas were not specific to the present design or future alternative designs of the project. She also stated that in the redesign of the parcel one would need to address the following factors:

1. truck access and egress
2. what land area on site to buffer; and
3. what parking supply could be - dictate the size of the store.

She further stated that the presentation would not attempt to address factor number three.

At this time Mr. Dash outlined to the Committee and to those assembled an Issue Matrix which contained possible conditions and the impacts on truck traffic, automobile traffic, parking and other. (A copy is attached.)

Councillor Duehay stated his hope that through this exercise options and amendments could be identified and used as a basis for working discussions with officials of Stop and Shop.

Throughout the presentation, the Chair allowed an exchange between presenters and the citizenry.

Ms. Muriel Brown, 353 Pearl Street, stated that some four years ago the neighborhood was briefed by the Stop & Shop on its plans for the site and that the citizenry supported it. She stated that people are getting tired of going to meetings on this issue and urged the City Council and the Cambridge delegation to exert influence over the MDC.

Councillor Myers noted that there is a general sense of support for a store and that the committee was trying to be helpful.

Councillor Duehay stated that the City Council did approve the sale of Riverside Road contingent upon the Memorial Drive piece. The MDC Commissioner has turned down the plan and that the Governor is the only person with the authority to replace the Commissioner. He stated that at present, two options are available:

1. continue pressure on the MDC; and
2. look at alternatives.

Councillor Sullivan stated that the Memorial Drive piece allows for truck traffic to get off the residential streets. He noted the Mayoral Commission that had been named to negotiate with Stop & Shop and he reiterated the City Council's intention to secure a store.

Mr. Peter Valentine, 37 Brookline Street, inquired if there was any consideration given to his helicopter proposal.

Councillor Myers noted the zoning amendment that does not allow helicopter usage.

Mr. Stanislav A. Horowitz, 12A Florence Street, requested Mr. Dash to draw the proposed structure on the site map stating the need to have adequate information with regards to size and what is allowed by the Commonwealth.

Ms. Daphne Abeel, 148 Pleasant Street, stated that Pleasant Street is overburdened and that the size of the store should be reduced.

Mr. Robert Winters, Broadway, inquired of the authorship of the truck generated traffic for the project.

Councillor Myers in response stated that Stop & Shop generate those statistics in its EIR document.

Mr. Valentine requested that the variables continued in the Matrix be imputed and a computer-generated report be done to find a solution.

Ms. Epstein, in response, stated that the Matrix only represented a catalog. It was not a proposal or recommendation. She also stated that the data being discussed is not a guarantee or gospel.

Councillor Myers inquired of the level of support by the citizenry for zoned resident sticker.

It was overwhelming rejected.

Ms. Henrietta Davis, 120 Chestnut Street, noted that most of the Cambridge customers using the store come from within the zone, therefore it would have little impact on residential parking.

Ms. Susan Perry, 226 Chestnut Street, stated that the public ways branching from Magazine Street, etc. were not included in the Matrix and should be reviewed.

Ms. Maureen Van Stry, 251 Chestnut Street, outlined some of the parking problems and traffic especially at the intersection of Chestnut and Pleasant Streets. She also spoke of the difficulties caused by the Winter of 1994. She concluded by stating her desire for the store to stay.

Representative Thompson stated that he has been actively engaged in this process. He noted that the issue on the table is the size of the trucks. He also stated that in polling his colleagues on the Hill little support exists for an exemption with regards to Memorial Drive.

Ms. Davis stated her belief that it is important for a grocery store to stay in the neighborhood and urged her neighbors and the City to work together for a solution.

Ms. Mary Shea, 55 Magazine Street, was critical of Stop & Shop's lack of appearance at this hearing and inquired if a line of communication exists with the Stop & Shop.

Councillor Myers, in response, stated that until such time as the City's position is clear Stop & Shop will not listen.

Mr. Donald Dailey, 14 Florence Street, stated that he also undertook a poll with members of the legislature and it concurred with the findings by Representative Thompson. He further stated that the only hope is with the Committee, the City Council and the City Manager.

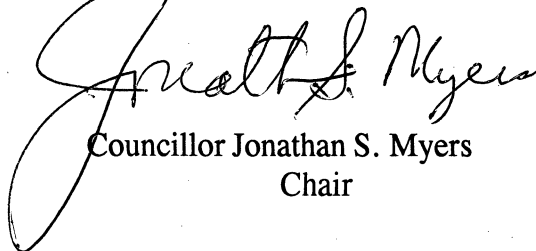
Councillor Myers noted the fact that five City staff people were in attendance as an indicator of the City's resolve in this issue.

Mr. Horowitz provided the Committee with a historical overview of the issue. He noted that some 1400 signatures were gathered stating that the proposed store was too large in size and that some 600 signatures were gathered supporting the Stop & Shop's proposal. He further stated that some thirty-one meetings have been held on this issue. The City Council has received its mandate. He also stated that in a June, 1993 edition of the Boston Globe it was reported that Stop & Shop faced a similar situation in Quincy, Massachusetts and it leased that facility to another company. He inquired if that could happen in Cambridge.

Councillor Myers thanked those assembled for their comments and participation.

The hearing was adjourned at seven o'clock and twenty-five minutes p. m.

For the Committee

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jonathan S. Myers". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned over the printed name and title.

Councillor Jonathan S. Myers
Chair

COMMITTEE REPORTS

S-230

Report from the Traffic and Transportation
Committee for a hearing held on April 28,
1994 for a discussion of the proposed Stop
& Shop project and traffic amelioration.

In City Council,

May 16, 1994

*Report accepted
Placed on file*