

COALITION OF CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS FACING THE CRISIS OF
HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION IN CAMBRIDGE

Blessed Sacrament School Hall
May 4, 1969 8:00 PM
Rev Richard Butler presiding

Father Butler opened the meeting with a welcome to all Cambridge groups facing the threat of delayed housing funds by the Department of Transportation. He continued with the formal presentation of memoranda from Mr Justin Grey, assistant to the City Manager in Community Development. Mr Grey urged unified action on this issue with pressure at all levels of government.

Mr. Ackerley then presented a brief resume of the present situation of Save Our Cities and the National Coalition on the Transportation Crisis, composed of 28 cities throughout the U. S. with similar housing-highway crises.

Jim Morey described the role of Urban Planning Aid and the formation of the Greater Boston Committee on the Transportation Crisis.

Mrs. Michael Benfield introduced some of the groups present.

Henry Nevin of the Interfaith Housing Corporation explained that the Walden Square Project, which IHC is sponsoring, cleared that project of all possible interference by route # 2 and claimed that the DPW and the Federal agencies were playing a 'game of blackmail' to push their unpopular urban highways through the city of Cambridge.

City Councillor Alfred Vellucci told the group that the Wellington-Harrington Citizens Committee, the other group threatened by withheld federal housing funds due to the holdup on the Inner Belt, had recently condemned the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development for their recent action in Cambridge.

Mr Paul Frank, executive director of the Cambridge Advisory Committee, said that this was the fourth time federal funding had been threatened for other programs because of unresolved highway conflicts and urged the fight continue at full strength.

Other groups recognized, some of whom made short statements backing a unified action, were: Model Cities, Cambridge Housing Convention, six Planning Teams, CHA Tenant Senate, Cambridge Civic Association, League of Women Voters, Cambridge Community Services, Cambridge Office of Economic Opportunity, Housing Convention Rent Control Subcommittee, Citizen Participation Politics, Harvard Square Clergy, Peace and Freedom, Retired Men's Association, Cambridge Council PTA, etc. Elected officials recognized were: Rep Newman, Schoolcommitteeman Clinton, Councillors Vellucci, Mahoney, and Ackermann.

Resolutions were prepared and passed to be sent to appropriate official at the city, state and federal level. (The resolutions are listed separately.)

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 PM. All in attendance will be notified of future meetings by mail and through the news media.

Resolution adopted by City Council on May 5, 1969.
A true copy, Attest:-

Paul E. Leahy
Temporary City Clerk.

COALITION OF CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS FACING THE CRISIS OF
HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION IN CAMBRIDGE

May 4, 1969 at the Blessed Sacrament School Hall *In City Council
May 5, 1969.*

RESOLVED.

That this meeting consisting of representatives of sundry organizations drawn from all strata of the life of the City of Cambridge does hereby vote that it is the unanimous sense of the meeting that we are unequivocally opposed to any action by either the Federal or the State Governments or any of their subordinate agencies which puts highways above homes and more specifically that we are opposed to both the proposed Inner Belt and the proposed extension of Route Two because of the threats they pose to the social and economic life of this City and to our children, the hope of the future.

RESOLVED

That we are appalled at the suggestion that a Federal department would go back on a commitment to participate in building low-rent housing in a core city for any reason whatever. Therefore we demand that all Federal agencies involved honor their commitments.

RESOLVED

That we will under no consideration accept a highway entering into or through the City of Cambridge. We the people do pledge that we will do all in our power both physically and mentally to stop any and all highways within our city.

RESOLVED

That this Committee request the City Council of Cambridge to provide ten buses to take representatives of 'Save Our Cities' Committee for a trip to Washington when deemed necessary by the 'Save Our Cities' Committee.

RESOLVED

That this body of group representatives request the support by their membership of the Greater Boston Committee on the Transportation Crisis in its effort to formulate a cohesive and centralized strategy for all cities concerned in opposing the construction of urban highways in Greater Boston.

RESOLVED

That this group request the Greater Boston Committee on the Transportation Crisis support of low-income housing priorities and improved mass transportation.

RESOLVED

That all Cambridge groups support the Greater Boston Committee on the Transportation Crisis request of Governor Sargent for a Task Force for a total transportation review and a moratorium on highway construction in Greater Boston until that task force has completed its study and Governor Sargent has acted upon the task force recommendations.

City Council May 5, 1969
Adopted by the City Council
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Paul H. Sargent
RJB

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