



349-4307

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300

BY FAX AND REGULAR MAIL

June 15, 1995

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

~~ROBERT W. WALSH~~
Richard Drury
City Manager
Cambridge City Clerk
Cambridge City Hall 157 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Deputy City Manager

Re: Walden Street Traffic Issues--City Council 6/19/95 Meeting

Dear Ms. Drury:

As we discussed yesterday, we would like to have the issue of traffic on Walden Street addressed at the City Council meeting next Monday, June 19th. Several of us who signed the petition submitted recently to the City Council will be present and will elaborate upon our concerns.

Thank you.

WALDEN STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

cc: Susan Clippinger, Cambridge Traffic Department (By Fax)
Sergeant Ahern, Cambridge Police Department (By Fax)

January 5, 1995

Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Hall
Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear City Council:

We are residents of the Walden Street area, and wanted to express our concern to you, the Cambridge Police Department, and the Cambridge Traffic Department about the hazardous conditions existing on Walden Street.

We believe that the City is in a position to make conditions much better and safer on Walden Street, and ask that you see that the Police and Traffic Departments immediately take steps to do so.

Speeding

Although the posted speed limit on Walden Street from Massachusetts Avenue to its juncture with Reservoir Street is 25 mph, drivers routinely exceed this limit, and often excessively.

This is particularly the case near Massachusetts Avenue, where drivers turn up Walden after waiting and speed up the incline, or speed when they descend from the railroad bridge (whose condition will be discussed later). The sidewalks on Walden Street near Massachusetts Avenue are very narrow, and speeding traffic poses a real safety problem.

We ask that the following steps be taken to see that life on and around Walden Street is made safer and more pleasant by ensuring that the speed limit on this busy, narrow road is obeyed:

(1) We would like the Traffic Department to post more, and more conspicuous, speed limit signs on Walden Street. We would also like warning signs about children put up not only in the vicinity of Raymond Park, but along Walden Street. The Traffic Department should also cut trees and other plants that are interfering with sight lines.

(2) We would like a much stronger effort by the Police Department to enforce the moving violation laws that pertain to Walden Street, and in particular the speeding and no commercial vehicle restrictions. We ask that the police department assign patrols to Walden Street continuously for a period of a year, so that it becomes a thoroughfare with a reputation of being patrolled vigorously.

(3) We would like the City to explore the possibility of lowering the speed limit on Walden Street between Massachusetts Avenue and the railroad bridge to 15 or 20 miles per hour, and much more conspicuous signs posted before the bridge about its condition and speed limits.

No Commercial Vehicle Restriction

Although Walden Street is posted as a "no commercial vehicle" street (except for deliveries), this restriction is blatantly ignored, and we believe that it is rarely if ever enforced by the police department. Given the 6 ton weight restriction on the Walden Street bridge, and the narrow and congested nature of Walden Street, we see the failure of the City to enforce this restriction as a serious safety and quality of life problem.

Again, we ask for your help and the help of the Traffic and Police departments in dealing with this problem. The Traffic Department should post larger signs about no commercial vehicles on Walden Street on Massachusetts Avenue and at the entrances of Walden Street. The Police should rigorously enforce the no commercial vehicle restriction, and the City Council should raise the fine for such a moving violation to at least \$250 dollars.

The police should also accompany commercial vehicles that claim to be making deliveries to their destinations, and should in no case allow such vehicles that are over 6 tons to use the Walden Street bridge.

Walden Street Railroad Bridge

The Walden Street bridge over the railroad tracks toward Massachusetts Avenue poses a potential safety problem that the City must address as soon as possible. The fact that the bridge has a six ton weight limit is evidence of its weakness, and our concern about the lack of guard rails between the road and sidewalks on the bridge cannot be overstated, especially by those of us with children.

We understand that this bridge was inspected within the last month by the State Highway Department, and have received a copy of the inspection report from the State. The inspector who performed the inspection mentioned that the bridge was in poor shape and that it needed to be replaced or repaired.

Given that it can take the State years to act on such matters, we ask that Cambridge step up its efforts to have this bridge rebuilt, and that at the least, guardrails be put up immediately and better warning signs about the bridge's weight and speed limits be posted.

We thank you for your immediate attention to these matters, and hope to see our concerns addressed soon. We look forward to working with you, Police Commissioner Anderson, and Traffic Department Commissioner Clippinger to improve our neighborhood and life in this area of Cambridge.

Katherine Adams 23 Walden St. Cambridge, MA 02148

Rosalind Co. Pinto 21 Walden St Cambridge, MA 02140 3rd Fl.

Connie Cardoso 21 Walden St. Cambridge, MA 02140 1st Fl.

Elin Goufman 21 Walden Street Cambridge, MA 02140

Diana Gustafson 21 Walden St Cambridge, MA 02140

Willi A. Pike 21 Walden St Cambridge MA 02140

Lillian O'Keefe 28 Holden St Cambridge MA 02140

Bertude L Davis 28 Walden St Cambridge MA 02140

Arvi Ohja 19 Walden St Cambridge MA 02140

Kanaka Haff 27 Walden St

cc: Mayor Ken Reeves
Robert Healy, City Manager
Police Commissioner Perry Anderson
Traffic Department Commissioner Susan Clippinger
Ross Dindio, Chief Bridge Engineer, MA Highway Dept.

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JUN 13 AM 8:48
CAMBRIDGE MA.

Consent Comm. # 3

CM-277

Communication received from residents of
the Walden Street area regarding hazardous
conditions on Walden Street.

In City Council,

June 19, 1995

Referred to City
Mgr. of power