

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
City Hall Annex - Inman & Broadway - Cambridge, Mass. 02139

(617) 876-6800
EXTENSION 344

TO: John Corcoran
City Manager

FROM: Robert A. Bowyer
Director, Department of Planning and Development

SUBJECT: Recently Released BTPR Studies of Cambridge Highway Alternatives

DATE: December 15, 1972

As you know, the Boston Transportation Planning Review staff recently released information on a highway alternative it has developed to connect the Alewife Brook Parkway with the Massachusetts Turnpike.

Ned Handy has advised me that within the last few days his staff has learned of three other Cambridge highway alternatives BTPR intends to discuss in the forthcoming draft of its final Northwest Corridor report. As shown on the attached map, the four highway alternatives together are:

- "Western Connector" -- running from the Concord Avenue-Fresh Pond Parkway circle to the Massachusetts Turnpike.
- Alewife Area Road System -- a complex of roads to support an Alewife transit terminal and related commercial/residential development. (This road complex is shown on the attached map only as an area within which the new roads would be built, since BTPR has not yet completed its design work.)
- "Fitchburg Division" Two-Lane Road -- a two-lane (50 foot right-of-way) road using the Boston and Maine Fitchburg Division right-of-way from Alewife Brook Parkway east to Somerville Avenue and Beacon Street. (We have not yet been given definite information as to whether BTPR will term this a "truck-and-bus-only" road, or a general purpose road.)
- "Grand Junction" Two-Lane Truck-and-Bus-Only Road -- a two-lane (50 foot r.o.w.) road using the Boston and Albany Grand Junction right-of-way from the Boston side of the Charles River to the East Cambridge industrial area (underpassing Massachusetts Avenue and Broadway) and then connecting to Commercial Avenue via a paired one-way system using Rogers and Binney Streets.

Since BTPR has not yet released text describing and explaining these four highway construction alternatives, our staff has no evaluation report to give you at this time. I believe, however, that you should know immediately that in the final, necessarily-rushed weeks of the 18-month BTPR study these highway designs are taking shape for inclusion in the draft report. An Alewife road system in support of a transit terminal is obviously needed. As to the other three alternatives the BTPR report will discuss, the Phase I report of December, 1971, included these in preliminary form, but subsequent adverse reaction

forced them aside in favor of heavy BTPR emphasis on Red Line and other public transportation projects.

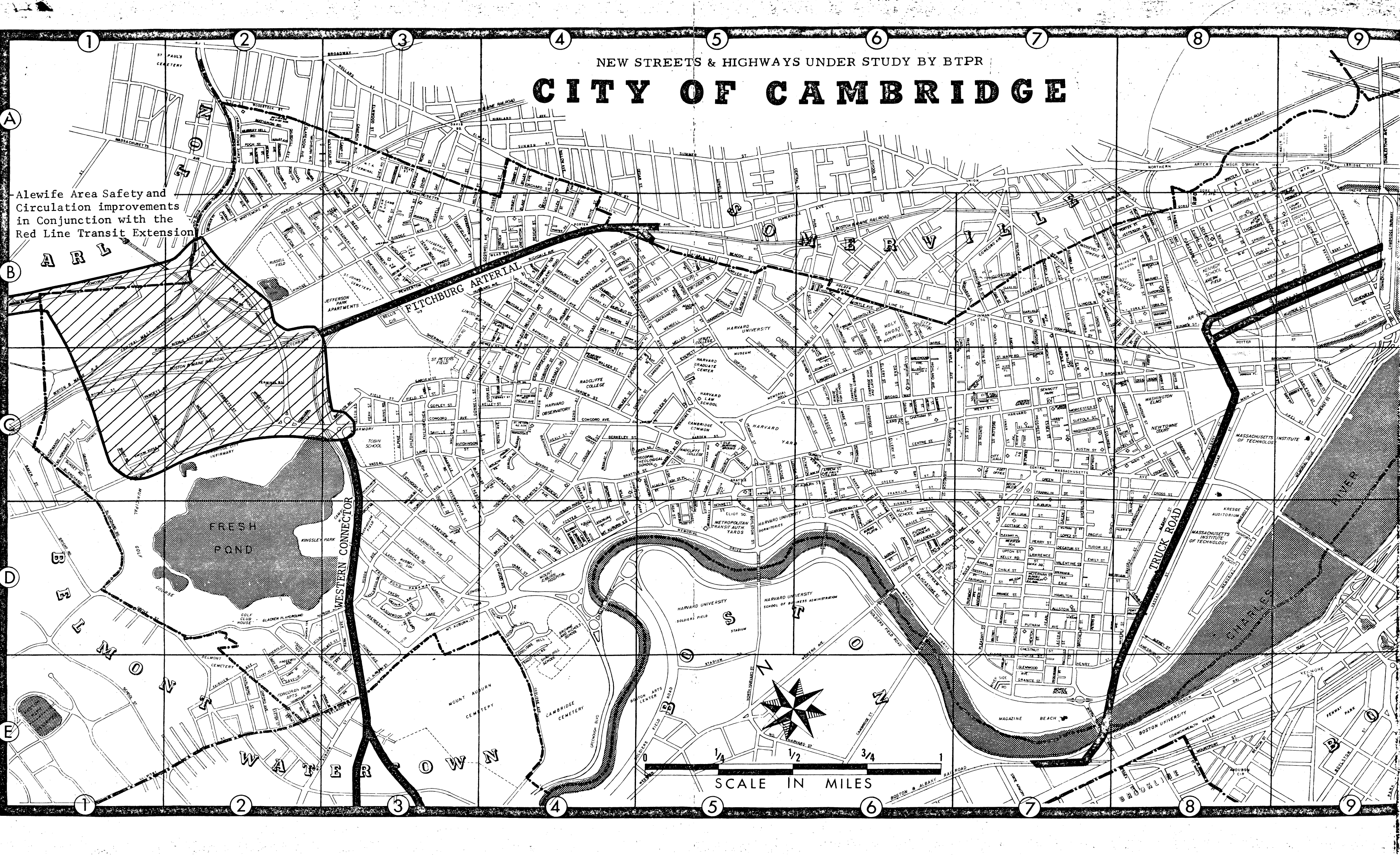
These new highway alternatives are not yet described in text (or in some cases even in map form); they will warrant broad public exposure and review as a basis for eventual City Council deliberation and action. In the meantime, you may want to send this memorandum on to the City Council and to other city leaders and groups who will appreciate being alerted in this connection at the earliest possible date.

We will advise you as soon as possible regarding BTPR's timetable for release and review of the Northwest Corridor draft report explaining these highway alternatives.

Attachment

cc: Edward A. Handy
City Transportation Coordinator

George Teso
Director, Department of Traffic and Parking



NEW STREETS & HIGHWAYS UNDER STUDY BY BTPR

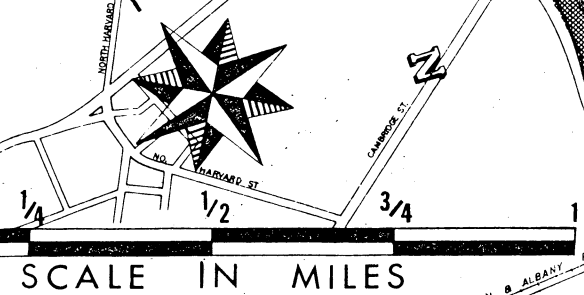
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

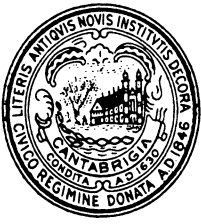
Alewife Area Safety and Circulation improvements in Conjunction with the Red Line Transit Extension

FITCHBURG ARTERIAL

WESTERN CONNECTOR

TRUCK ROAD





CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 876-6800

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JOHN H. CORCORAN
City Manager

December 18, 1972

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I transmit herewith for your information a communication
from Robert A. Bowyer, Director of Planning and Development,
relative to the BTPR Studies of Cambridge Highway Alternatives.

Very truly yours,


John H. Corcoran
City Manager

JHC/b

Agenda #35

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A Report prepared by the Planning &
Development Dept, relative to the BTPR
Studies of Cambridge Highway Alternatives.

In City Council

December 18, 1972

12/18/72
Placed on File