

Councilor Henrietta Davis
 Chair, Traffic and Parking Committee
 City Council
 City Hall
 Cambridge, MA 02138

HENRIETTA -
 I'M NOT SURE IF
 YOU GOT MY EMAIL
 SO I'M FACING THIS
 CRAZY ISSUE

23 August, 2000

Dear Councilor Davis:

On behalf of the North Cambridge Stabilization Committee (NCSC), I ask that you, as the Chair of the City Council's Committee on Traffic and Parking, help make the junction of Dover Street, Massachusetts Ave and Hollis Street in North Cambridge safer. We also ask that you assist in retiming the pedestrian walk light at the junction of Beech Street and Mass Ave.

As you may know, a few years ago, DPW changed the lights on Dover Street so they are less visible from a distance, in the hopes that drivers on Dover wouldn't race to beat a red light. Just recently, DPW added yet another set of *one way* and *Do Not Enter* signs at the entrance to Dover Street.

Unfortunately, these efforts have not been entirely successful. In addition to entering Dover Street the wrong way (both by accident and, apparently, by design), drivers make illegal, against the light turns on about every third light cycle here. The problem is two-fold. The first problem is that a driver making an illegal right, against the light, onto Mass Ave from Dover Street crosses both a pedestrian walk light and the left-hand turn arrow off of Hollis Street. I have almost been hit both as a pedestrian with the walk light and, just today (by a W.B. Mason delivery truck), as a cyclist with the left turn arrow and I have seen many other near-misses. The second problem, which is more of an annoyance, is that cars pull too far forward on Dover Street, waiting to make (often illegal) turns North onto Mass Ave. In doing so, they block both the Dover Street crosswalk and, as importantly to anyone using a mobility device, the curbcut off the sidewalk onto the street.

We are not sure what the answers are. Obviously, a stronger police presence at this intersection would help and we hope that your Committee can come up with, and work to effectively implement, other important changes in the traffic flow.

As you may also know, over two years ago, I informed the City that the pedestrian cross signal at Beech Street and Mass Ave was too short to allow for safe crossings across Mass Ave. Myself and others have informed City officials of this problem time and time again since then. We hope that this letter will prompt the City to lengthen the light cycle so that someone with mobility issues (such as some of the residents of the nearby senior center) can cross Mass Ave without fear of getting stuck in the middle.

We look forward to your prompt response to these issues and to your assistance in making North Mass Ave a safer road. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,


 Craig A. Kelley, Esq.

Vice-Chair

North Cambridge Stabilization Committee

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354-8353

cc: Susan Clippinger
 City Council

Consent Communication #5

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A communication was received from
Craig A. Kelley, Esq., Vice Chair,
North Cambridge Stabilization Committee,
requesting that the Traffic Committee
make the junction of Dover, Mass Ave
and Hollis Streets safer and that the
pedestrian walk light at the junction
of Beech Street and Mass Ave. be
retimed.

In City Council September 18, 2000

Referred to the City Manager