

#21

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

City Hall Annex

Inman & Broadway

EXTENSION ~~344~~ 9034

To Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From Richard A. Easter, Transportation Coordinator *RAE* **Date** Nov. 4, 1982

Subject Status of Proposed Roadway Improvements for the Alewife Area of Cambridge

Last month, after a five year delay, the Massachusetts Department of Public Works (MDPW) filed the Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for its current roadway improvement proposal in the Alewife area of Cambridge. The proposal is shown on the attached map and is outlined as follows:

- Widening and reconstruction of Route 2 between Lake Street and Alewife Brook Parkway, with ramp connections serving the MBTA Alewife Station and the Rindge Avenue Extension. A new westbound frontage road would be provided on the north side of Route 2 with access to the Mugar/Finnard office development. A new eastbound cul-de-sac frontage road would be constructed on the south side of Route 2, with new Lake Street and Route 2 connections. A. D. Little, Inc. and its neighboring businesses will be served by improved Route 2/Lake Street connections. Traffic from the neighboring businesses, which now have direct access to Route 2, would be separated from MBTA station bound traffic, eliminating existing and future merge/weave problems;
- Elimination of the Dewey-Almy rotary connection with Alewife Brook Parkway in favor of a new channelized intersection with a "fly under" ramp, traffic signals, and a direct connection to the W. R. Grace property;
- Reconstruction of Alewife Brook Parkway between Whittemore Avenue and the new Route 2 intersection. The Whittemore Avenue intersection is to be channelized to allow only right turns in and out. Alewife Brook Parkway is to maintain two lanes of pavement width in each direction;
- Reconstruction of Alewife Brook Parkway between the limits of the MBTA roadway work at Rindge Avenue and the Concord Avenue rotary. MBTA Alewife Station roadway improvements include a new signalized dog-leg Rindge Avenue/Rindge Avenue Extension intersection with the Alewife Brook Parkway and Rindge Avenue Extension approaches to the intersection. This would include the replacement of the railroad trestle bridge

on a new alignment, and the elimination of the Concord Avenue rotary in favor of a new channelized and signalized intersection; and

- Reconstruction of the segment of Concord Avenue between Alewife Brook Parkway and Fresh Pond Parkway. This would include the elimination of the Fresh Pond Parkway rotary in favor of a channelized and signalized intersection.

Although the proposal generally follows the criteria as set forth in the City Council Resolution of July 7, 1976 concerning roadway improvements in the Alewife area (copy attached), there are design issues such as the proposal to have eight foot shoulders on Alewife Brook Parkway, which must be addressed during the environmental review and design phases of project implementation. A draft scope of work for the environmental review process is now being prepared by the MEPA unit of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. When this draft becomes available, the City and all interested neighborhood, environmental and business groups will be able to review the document to assure that all areas of concern will be properly addressed in the resultant reports.

Complementary to the MDPW project, the City began planning in 1974 for local roadway improvements which would help alleviate some of the traffic impacts of new development in the area. This effort culminated in the development of two roadway projects. One, the reconstruction of Sunny Road, Mooney Street, Moulton Street and Fawcett Street including water and sewer services, is now under construction with the aid of an EPA grant (see attached map).

The other project, the focus of which is the joining of the "Triangle" and "Quadrangle" sections of the Alewife area with a new roadway currently referred to as Alewife Boulevard, is proposed for funding under the Federal Aid Urban Systems Program. The entire project (see attached map) consists of improvements to Rindge Avenue and Smith Place from the proposed Alewife Red Line Station to Concord Avenue, including a structure connecting the two roads across the B & M Fitchburg Division railroad tracks and the construction of a new roadway connection, New Street to Fawcett Street, plus safety improvements to Concord Avenue from the Belmont town line to Alewife Brook Parkway. These roadway improvements are to serve several functions. First, they will relieve traffic pressures on Alewife Brook Parkway and Concord Avenue thereby reducing congestion and allowing Alewife Station related traffic to flow easier and more quickly. Next, they will enable buses to travel through the major development areas with direct access to the new station thus providing increased transit service and patronage. And finally, the new roadway connections will organize local traffic circulation into safer and more efficient patterns which will help alleviate the impacts of new development in the vicinity of the Alewife Station. A draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this proposal is now being prepared for the City.

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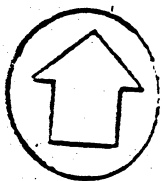
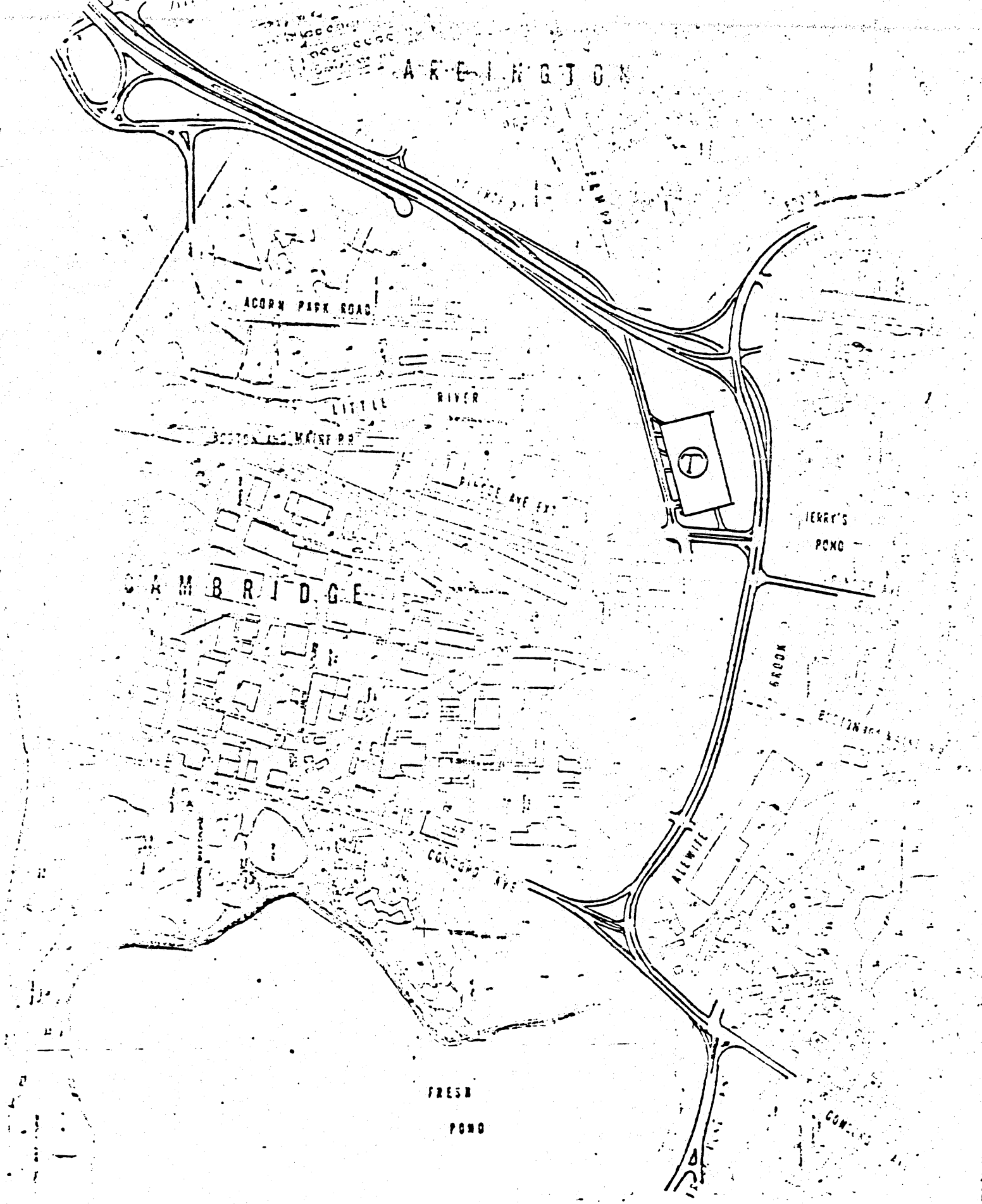
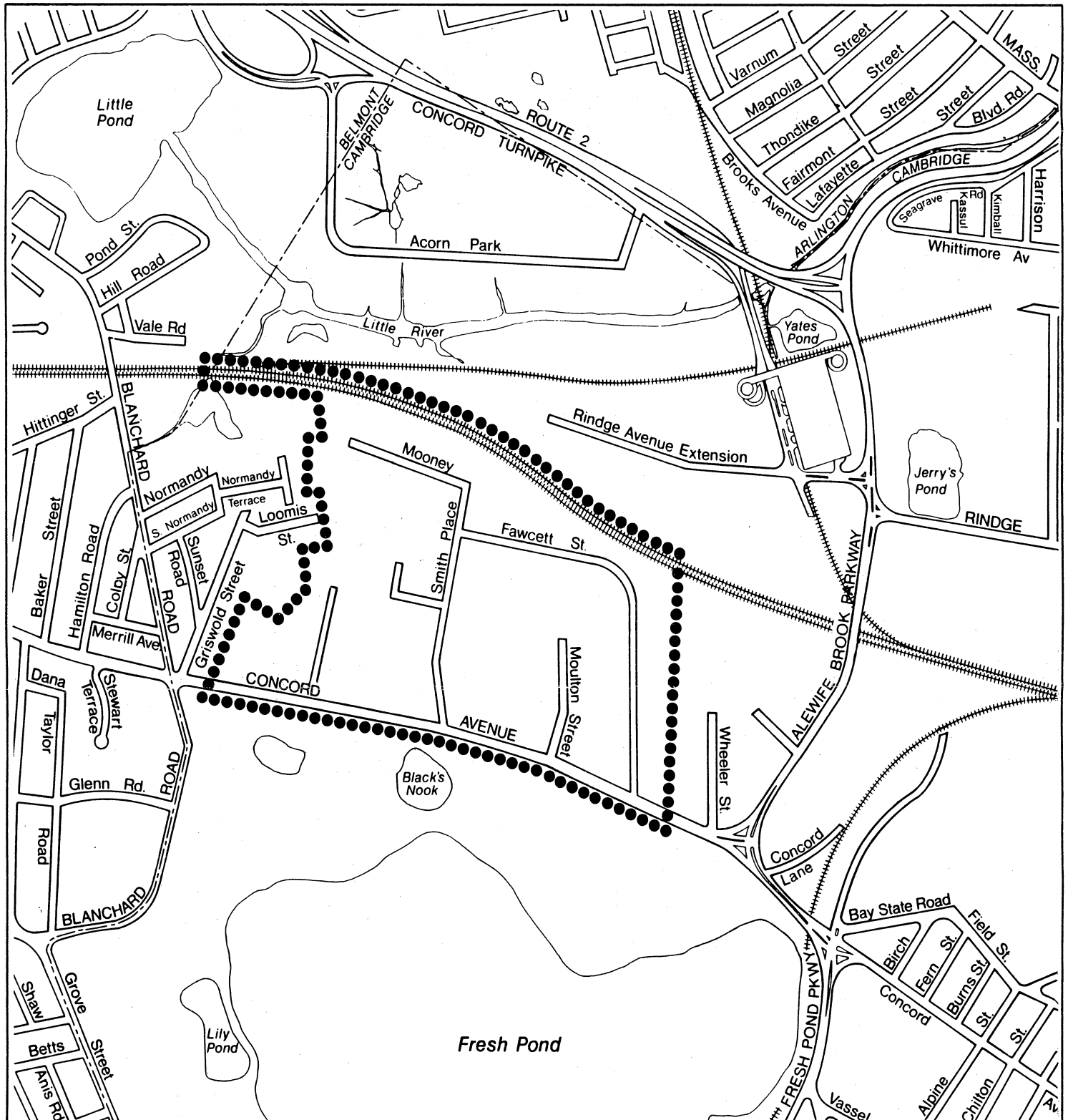


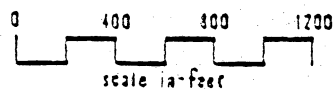
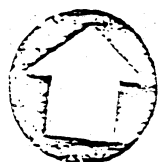
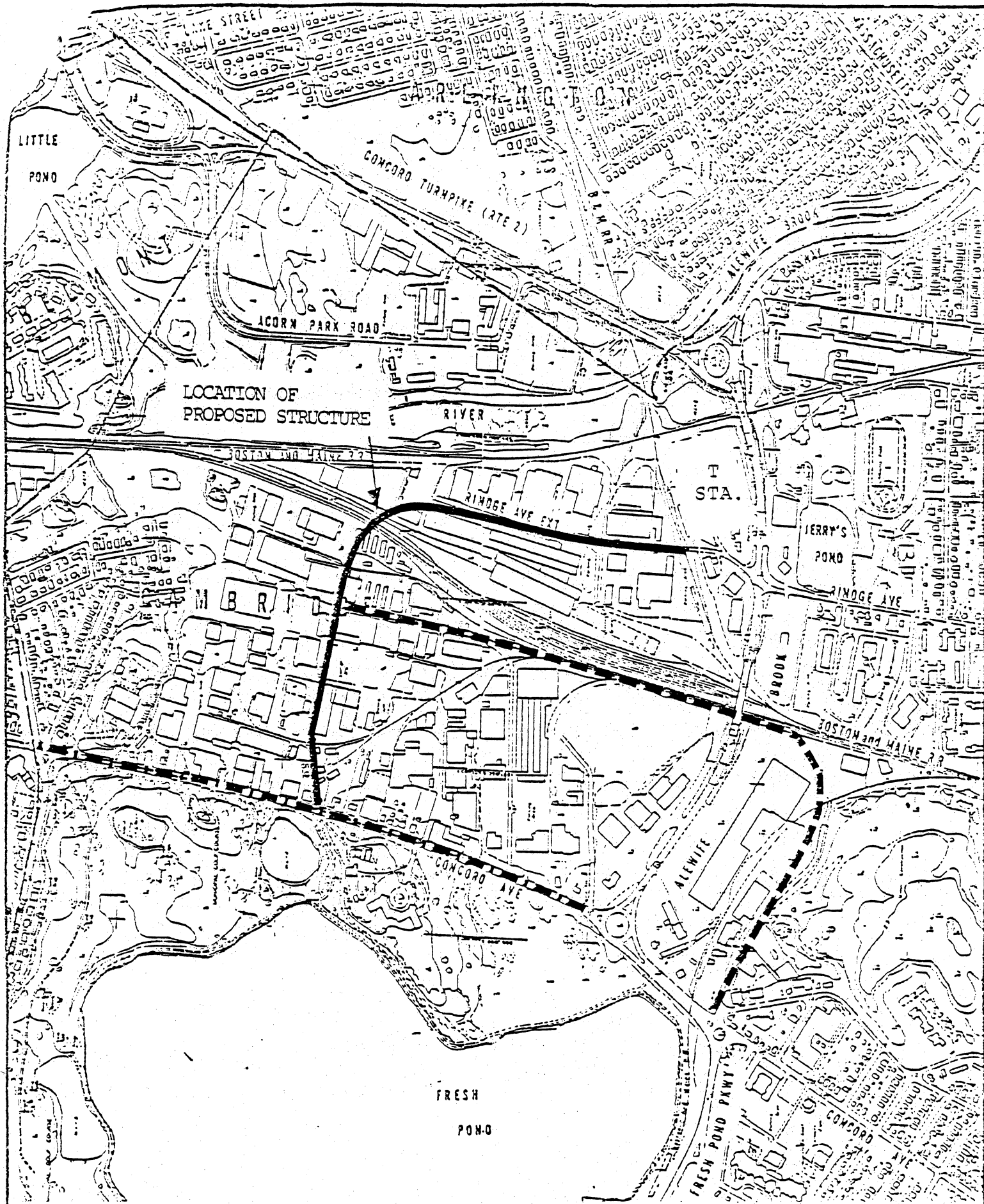
FIG 3
MDPW
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT

Alewife Quadrangle

EDA Public Works Project Boundary

March 1982





ALEWIFE LOCAL ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Rindge Ave. Ext./Smith Pl. Con. 
 Concord Ave. Safety Improvements 
 New St./Fawcett St. Connector 



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

November 8, 1982

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With respect to Awaiting Report Item No. 21, enclosed please find copy of a report on the status of proposed roadway improvements for the Alewife area of Cambridge.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

Re: response to Awaiting Report Item No. 21
regarding the status of proposed roadway im-
provements in the Alewife area.

*Copy sent to Transportation Committee
Chairman 11/9/82 ml*

11/8/82

Rocky motion

for refer to Trans

Committee - Council -

Hearing on 11/10/82

In City Council,

November 8, 1982

11/8/82

Not

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