



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Metropolitan District Commission
20 Somerset Street, Boston 02108

John W. Sears
Commissioner

December 31, 1974

Ms./ Ellen Kaplovitz
2 Larchwood Drive
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Ms. Kaplovitz:

This is a confirmatory letter on the status of our action and planning relative to safety improvements on Fresh Pond Parkway, Cambridge, particularly between Brattle Street and Huron Avenue. Since in part it is necessitated by inquiries from those on your copy list in your original letter of November 10, I am taking the liberty of including your recent letter to your neighbors which reports fairly and accurately the outcome of our meeting here at the M.D.C. on December 13.

We would encourage you to submit your recommendations for an improved lighting system as early as possible since this process tends to be a lengthy one. The Commission presently has a number of lighting projects in the planning stage but we are working with limited personnel and resources.

We are also attempting to insure a minimum of disruption for this project during the period of transition in government and I trust that the new administration will concur.

Best wishes for the new year.

Sincerely Yours,

William T. Welch

William T. Welch
Chief Administrative Assistant

cc: Governor Sargent
Governor-elect Dukakis
Senator Brooke
Senator Kennedy
Senator LoPresti
Representative Flaherty

David Wylie
Commissioner McLaughlin
Cambridge Chronicle-Attn: Mr. Paul Richard
Ask the Globe
Mayor Sullivan
City Council, Cambridge

Dear Neighbor,

On December 13, there was a meeting at the MDC offices, in which a number of us discussed the Parkway. Present were:

Captain Carli, Police Traffic chief
Martin Cosgrove, Chief Engineer, MDC
Richard A. Easler, Community Development, Cambridge
Ellen Kaplovitz, 2 Larchwood Drive
William Kerins, Engineering Division, MDC
Lauren Preston, Cambridge Traffic Department
Maurice Randall, Lighting Engineer, MDC
Mr. Revade, Engineering Assistant
William T. Welch, Chief Administrative Assistant, MDC
David Wylie, City Councilor, 103 Fresh Pond Parkway

The meeting was an open, informal discussion of the problems inherent in the Parkway now, the opinions of the neighborhood, and the possible solutions which the MDC can initiate to create the safest, residential roadway. Since so many residents are interested in these plans, we are planning a neighborhood meeting in mid to late January. At this time, proposals of the MDC can be reviewed by residents and our city officials for our comments and approval.

The specific points discussed included:

1. Reflectors - will be placed on the median, experimentally, as soon as possible. Small triangles which move when hit.
2. Lighting: Commitment by MDC to lighting contract for Parkway; type of lighting to be suggested by residents, with information from Cambridge city and electric company. Current system one of the most antiquated around.
3. Guardrails - discussion about the need for this. Just on inside of curve? Type? etc MDC will investigate further. Would a vertical edgestone be better.
4. Signs: Survey of existing signs has been done. Want to repaint all faded signs. Improve where necessary. Add large curves signs (highly reflectorized, arrows).
5. Enforcement of Speed Limit: perhaps selective enforcement would have a major effect on slowing down late night travelers.

I thought this meeting was a real step in the right direction. Please plan to be at the meeting. Thanks for your concern and interest, and a merry and safe Christmas and holiday season.

Ellen Kaplovitz

Status of the action and planning for
safety improvements for Fresh Pond Parkway.

In City Council,

January 6, 1975

1/6/75

Placed on File.