

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Traffic, Parking and Transportation
57 Inman Street,
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Susan E. Clippinger
Director

Administration 349-4700
Parking Violations 349-4705
Resident Parking 349-4701

May 14, 1998

To: Bob Healy

From Susan Clippinger *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: City Council order 44, 4/13/98

RE: Report on the "Jersey Barriers" placed at the intersection of Elmwood Avenue and Route 6

The closure of Elmwood Ave was implemented on October 31, 1988 in response to the safety problems occurring on the MDC parkway and the volume and speeds of vehicles cutting through the neighborhood. The high accident rate was created by vehicles using Elmwood to get to and from the Parkway conflicting with other vehicles especially those on Mt Auburn. A Traffic Study was completed in November of 1989. This study was the culmination of extensive work done by our staff in cooperation with the MDC and in response to neighborhood concerns about the large number of accidents in the intersection and the large amount of traffic cutting through using Fayerweather, Elmwood, Mt Auburn, Brattle and other streets to cut across Cambridge neighborhoods.

Prior to the closure of Elmwood there were 24 accidents at the intersection of Fresh Pond Parkway and Mt. Auburn, after the closure accidents were reduced to 13. Accidents at Mt. Auburn and Elmwood were reduced from 3 to none, and accidents at Brattle and Fayerweather were reduced from 6 to 2. On March 27, 1989 the pedestrian signal at Brattle, Fayerweather and Elmwood was upgraded to a full signal which further reduced accidents at this location. During this same period the MDC also made pavement marking and signal adjustments to improve safety along Fresh Pond Parkway. The closure was very effective in improving safety.

An analysis of traffic volumes before and after the closure showed that traffic volumes were reduced on Elmwood and on Fayerweather Streets. Some traffic found new routes outside the study area. There was a huge increase in vehicles using Traill Street. This undesirable impact was mitigated in October 1988 when Traill Street was changed from 2 way street to its current one way pattern. There were also turn restrictions that were implemented to protect Channing Street from commuter cut through traffic. A No Left Turn 7-9am and 4-6pm was placed on Mt Auburn St. at Channing Street in April

RECEIVED
98 MAY 14 PM 2:21
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

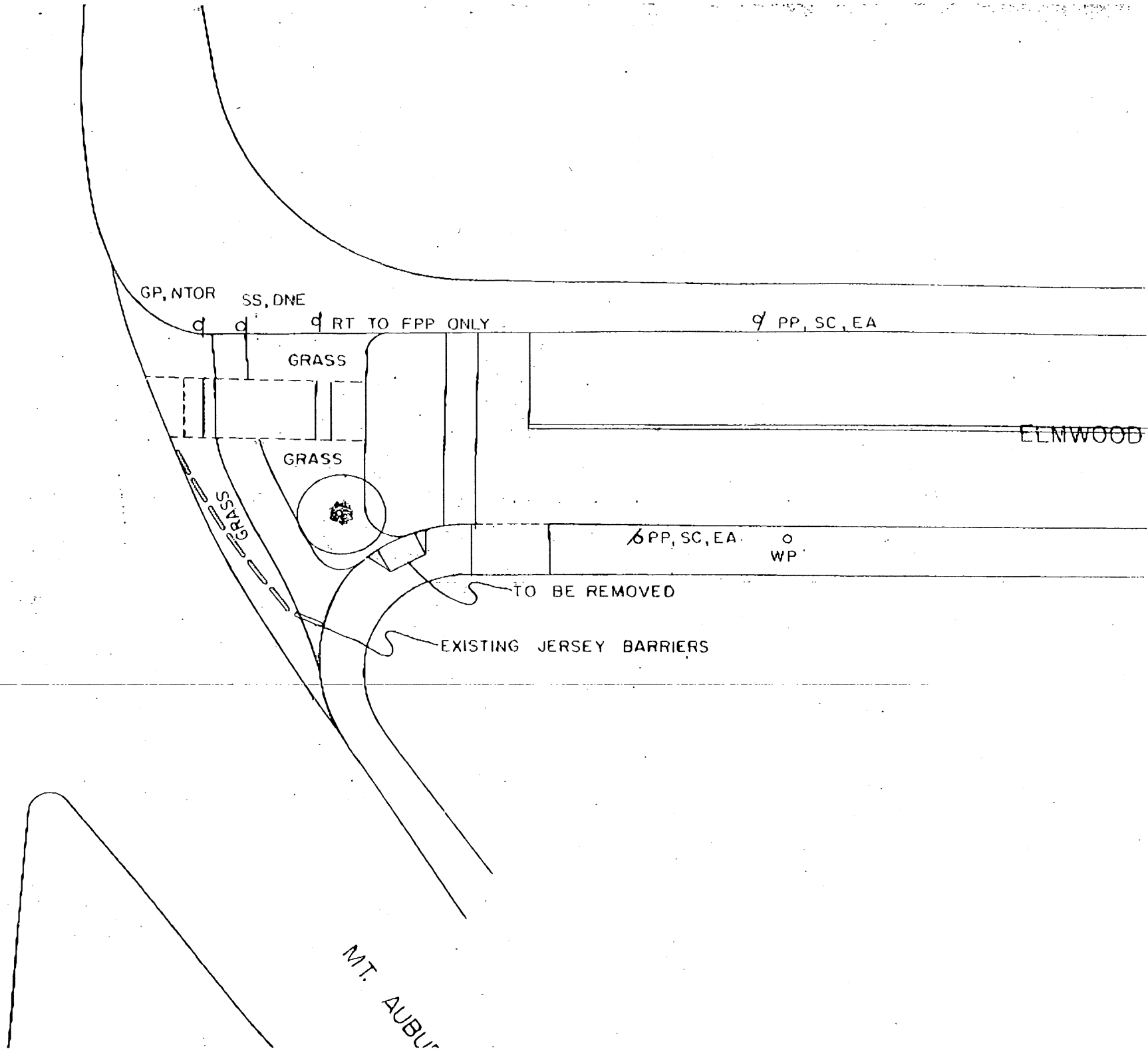
1990. This restriction was extended to 7-10am and 4-7pm in May 1991. Vehicles exiting from Elmwood have been restricted to right turns only. Responses from the MDC concerning this change were positive due to the 46% decrease in accidents and they asked that this restriction be maintained.

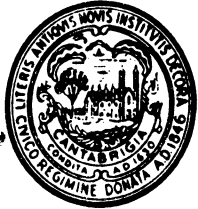
The Elmwood closure did not make any change in the speeds of vehicles along Fayerweather Street. In November 1990 the City received State approval and posted a 25 MPH speed limit on Fayerweather Street.

Given the success of the Elmwood closure, we have been looking at several different possible layouts for a physical replacement for the jersey barriers. A copy of the proposed plan is attached. This plan continues the existing type of landscaping of grass and trees so that the new construction will blend in with the existing pedestrian way. The right turns out of Elmwood will still be allowed, however by raising the pedestrian crossing it will give the drivers a clear message that they should be using caution.

Currently this plan has been reviewed internally by CDD, PWD, Police and Fire. It will be necessary to get MDC approval due to the fact that part of the project falls within their jurisdiction. Funding for the design will be requested in the FY00 Capital Budget

POND





EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307



21.

May 18, 1998

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 10, regarding a report on the "Jersey Barriers" placed at the Elmwood Avenue intersection, received from Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

Consent Agenda #21

3635

A report on the "Jersey Barriers"
placed at the Elmwood Avenue
intersection.

In City Council May 18, 1998

PLACED ON FILE