



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF
THE CITY CLERK

October 24, 1979

Mr. Francis H. McCarran, Jr.
Acting Deputy Chief
Construction Engineer, MDC
20 Somerset Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. McCarran:

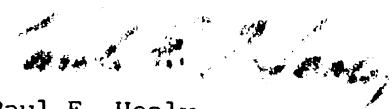
Please be advised that the City Council at the meeting of October 15, 1979 was in receipt of your communication dated October 4, 1979 which is enclosed for your ready convenience.

Some of the membership of the City Council felt that the response was unsatisfactory and requested the City Clerk to communicate this feeling to you and to elicit the opinions of Mr. Peter Gunness, Headmaster of the Buckingham Browne and Nichols School, Mr. Joseph Segar, Headmaster of the Shady Hill School, and Mr. George Teso, Director of Traffic and Parking in the City of Cambridge, regarding the solution for traffic and pedestrian controls at the Mt. Auburn Hospital location as outlined in your letter.

It is possible that a conference with Mr. George Teso, Director of Traffic and Parking in the City of Cambridge 498-9042, and all concerned might be beneficial in resolving this matter.

Thanking you for your past cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,


Paul E. Healy
City Clerk

PEH/cs

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Peter Gunness, Buckingham Browne and Nichols School
Mr. Joseph Segar, Shady Hill School
Mr. George Teso, Director of Traffic and Parking



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Metropolitan District Commission

20 Somerset Street, Boston 02108

October 4, 1979

Mr. Paul E. Healy
Office of the City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

This is in reference to your letter dated September 20, 1979 forwarding a copy of a City Council Vote dated September 17, 1979 requesting the Metropolitan District Commission to change the operation of the traffic signals near the Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge.

The Metropolitan District Commission completed changes to the traffic signal system which included adding pedestrian Walk-Don't Walk signals, signs, pavement markings, sidewalks, etc. to provide a safe pedestrian crossing.

These improvements were made in response to long standing requests from Mr. Peter K. Gunness, Headmaster of the Buckingham Browne and Nichols School, and Mr. Joseph Segar, Headmaster of the Shady Hill School, for a safe pedestrian crossing for their school children.

In addition to providing for the pedestrian crossing requested by the two schools the changes also eliminated another hazard that existed: namely, merging three lanes of traffic outbound from Boston with the two lanes of traffic coming from Memorial Drive into two lanes on Fresh Pond Parkway. Now the traffic from Memorial Drive is stopped when the outbound traffic from Boston has the green light. This has improved the flow of traffic onto Fresh Pond Parkway and eliminated the safety hazard associated with the weaving and merging traffic.

The present operation of the traffic signals was designed to fit into the previous sequence and timing which is part of a radio-inter-connected progressive system along Fresh Pond Parkway and also provide for the pedestrian crossing and the elimination of the hazardous merging traffic all of which have been accomplished. The present operation does result in some increased delay to certain traffic movements; however, this has been minimized as much as possible.

In investigating your request it was observed that the sight distance for vehicles approaching the traffic signals on Memorial Drive outbound headed toward Fresh Pond Parkway is severely restricted by the sharp curve in the roadway and the presence of low overhanging branches from trees adjacent to the Mount Auburn Hospital. Our maintenance forces have been

October 4, 1979

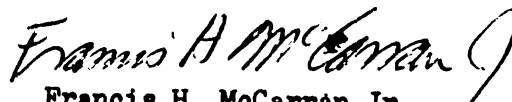
requested to trim these low overhanging branches to provide for improved sight distance for these traffic signals.

The operation of this traffic signal system is accomplishing its intended purpose and the benefits far outweigh the minor inconveniences associated with increased delay for some motorists.

Therefore I do not anticipate any change in the operation of this traffic signal system at this time.

Thank you for your interest in traffic safety.

Very truly yours



Francis H. McCarran Jr.
Acting Deputy Chief
Construction Engineer, MDC

KWK/nh

c.c. Kevin P. Duggan
George Teso
Peter K. Gunness
Joseph Segar
Kenneth W. Kirwin



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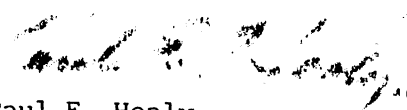
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c.c. Kevin P. Duggan
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S-532

Comm. from Paul E. Healy, City Clerk, transmitting one from Francis H. McCarran, Jr., Acting Deputy Chief Construction Engineer, MDC, in response to Council Order of Sept. 17, 1979 re: operation of the traffic signals near the Mt. Auburn Hospital.

In City Council,

October 15, 1979

10/15/79

Report requested

By E. Leone

10/24/79

Letter sent

Copy forwarded