



City of Cambridge

O-16.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 29, 2001

MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a copy of the attached letters and petition to the City Manager and requesting the City Manager to work with the Department of Traffic, Parking & Transportation and other appropriate City Departments to work with the residents of Alpine Street to address their concerns with respect to pedestrian safety.

In City Council October 29, 2001.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Michael J. Brower and Norma Finkelstein

32 Alpine Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
Tel. 617 – 492-1357 (H). 617 – 492-8893 (O)
mbrower32@aol.com

October 24, 2001

Mr. Robert W. Healy
Cambridge City Manager
City Hall, 795 Mass Ave.
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Cc: Susan E. Clippinger, Director, Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department; Wayne Amaral, Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department; Mayor Anthony D. Galluccio; City Councilors

Dear Mr. Healy:

I am reluctantly writing you, with copies to your Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department and the City Council to ask you to intervene and secure for us a 25 MPH speed limit and signs on Alpine Street from Concord Ave. to Vassal Lane. I say reluctantly because by nature I hate to go over anyone's head and to complain to upper management. But we, the residents of this one long block on Alpine Street, have been unanimously requesting this for OVER THREE YEARS now, with no results. Correction: your traffic department did put up big green-yellow signs warning of children crossing, and put up a traffic light at the corner of Concord & Alpine (which we did not ask for.)

Here is a capsule summary of the history, with lots of telephone and in-person conversations omitted, and a few of the documents attached. After three years, I think perhaps it is time for you to light a fire under this department, or hire them additional staff, or encourage them to be more responsive, or help them reassess their priorities – or something!

October 9, 1998: I talk with Ms. Jane Kent of the Dept. of T, P & T and send her a letter enclosing a petition signed by every adult on our block requesting a 15 MPH speed limit. Copies are attached. Nothing happens. Apparently Ms. Kent leaves and also leaves our petition on or in her desk. Or in her wastebasket?

July 12, 1999: Ann Robbart, 55 Alpine Street, sends a letter with 14 signatures to Susan Clippinger, Director of T, P and T, requesting traffic calming and speed limit signs. Copy attached. This letter was also sent to City Councilors.

September 23, 1999: Wayne Amaral, who has replaced Ms. Kent, writes me responding to my letter and petition of almost one year earlier. He points out that Cambridge is not allowed to go below 25 MPH except in school zones (we are just barely too far from Tobin School to qualify for 20 MPH) and that the city is hoping the legislature will soon pass a 25 MPH limit for thickly settled areas. He also reports that speed checks were conducted for 4 hours and that "the average speed was 25 MPH or lower."

My Comment: The average speed of all cars using the street in any 4-hour period is totally irrelevant. We have 8 kids under 6 (6 of whom are under 4) on this block and numerous cats and dogs. It is not the average car that hits and kills or maims a pet or child; it is the single speeding car, one of which has already sent a cat to the hospital for a serious operation.

By the way, the worst offenders are concentrated in the 7:30 – 9:30 A.M. time and the 4:30 – 6:30 P.M. time, when commuters are rushing to and from home and using Alpine to avoid the Fresh Pond Parkway construction. Also, among the worst offenders are the B&B and other company tow trucks that have contracts with the city. Some of them act as though they have a pass to avoid all speed limits, and all safety practices, from you personally or the Police Dept.

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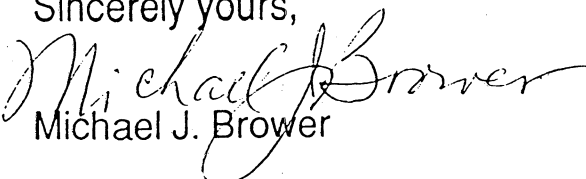
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Mr. Amaral also told me that Alpine Street was 14th or 15th on his list. (After over 2 years wait??!!). I pleaded with him to raise it to the top priority. He promised me that he would. That was 9 months ago, and we have seen no results since.

Mr. Healy, Ms. Clippinger, Mr. Amaral, City Councilors, as I drive around, I see 25 MPH signs posted all over, including on Walden Street and Fayerweather St. Will it take one of our children on this street being sent to a hospital or morgue to get you to act on getting approval from the state to also post this street at 25 MPH? What will it take? Why have we waited over 3 years without results?

Sincerely yours,


Michael J. Brower

Michael Brower and Norma Finkelstein
32 Alpine Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
Tel. 617 - 492-1357

October 9, 1998

Ms. Jane Kent
Department of Traffic, Parking & Transportation
City of Cambridge
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Ms. Kent:

Thank you for talking with me this morning.

Enclosed is the petition I told you about. Everyone on our block is very concerned about the high speed cars, and especially occasional tow trucks that zoom down our street, endangering us and especially the many children on the block.

Every single person that I told about this petition, or that heard about it from others, offered to sign it. While I may have missed a few of the temporary student tenants, the signatures on the petition represent virtually every homeowner on this street. Our lowest house number is 7, our highest is 56. Both have signed, as have almost everybody in between. There are some numbers missing because there are gaps in the house numbering here. For example, No. 9 is the left side of one house and the right side of the same house is 15. (There is no No. 13). Both have signed. Our house is 30 and 32; our immediate neighbors are 26 (there is no 28) and 36 (there is no 34). Again, both have signed.

Please keep me informed of the progress of this request, and whether there is anything else that I, or we the residents of Alpine Street between Concord Avenue and Vassal Lane, need to do. We will do it!

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,


Michael Brower

Petition to the Traffic and Police Departments of Cambridge

Whereas there are now a great many children, at least 10, living on our block of Alpine Street, including 7 children under 5 years of age, and

Whereas we increasingly observe tow trucks and other vehicles speeding rapidly down our street, sometimes at or approaching 45 mph, and

Whereas water and sewer construction on Fresh Pond Parkway could soon increase the volume and speed of vehicles using our street, and

Whereas our street is also used by a large number of children heading to the Tobin School, and this should be a School Zone, and

Whereas there is a high and increasing risk of a serious accident involving one or more of our children,

We, the undersigned residents of the one block of Alpine Street running from Concord Avenue to Vassal Lane do hereby petition the City of Cambridge to: 1) Set and fully enforce a 15 mph speed limit on our block of Alpine Street, and 2) Place a sign or signs stating "Children at Play" and "15 mph speed limit" at the entrance to Alpine Street off of Concord.

Name	Number on Alpine St.	Name	Number on Alpine St.
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<u>Emkama</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>Anna F. Hunter</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>Devi Engelman</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>Miroslav Mej</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>Elizabeth Runtel</u>	<u>41</u>
<u>Kathleen Whelan</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>Troy Wagon</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Howard Pomroy</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>Glen Blake</u>	<u>49</u>
<u>John G. Dennis</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>Nancy W. Mengin</u>	<u>56</u>
<u>Masmin E. Lukman</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Frederic Simmes</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Steve Beaman</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>Sperry L. Wolfert</u>	<u>48</u>
<u>Ruth Hallett</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>Neil Wald</u>	<u>48</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>Patricia Morgan</u>	<u>42</u>

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Name

Number on
Alpine St.

Name

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Alpine St.

Neah Bennet 25

Jennifer NELSON 50

Troy Nelson 50

Shirley Bennett 25

Jancy Bondy 20

Debbie Egbert 37

Paul W. Scarlett 22

Janet S. Donovitz 22

Anna Tucker 32

Greg A. Z 21

Maria Corbin 21

cc: Wayne
Kathy

To: Susan Clippinger, Director
Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department

From: Alpine Street Residents

RE: Concord Av plans and Alpine St problems

Date: July 12, 1999

First, we are very much in favor of slowing traffic on Concord Avenue. We would like to see efforts to slow traffic on Alpine Street.

However, the traffic calming design of permanent islands (currently painted), projected for summer of 2000, is going to greatly increase parking problems for Alpine Street and other streets near the Tobin Little League fields. Parking is already a problem now, even though parkers ignore the painted markings. Without a parking plan, the islands will exacerbate the problem.

Finally, Alpine Street (between Concord and Vassal) has become a heavily used speedway, especially during commuting hours. This will only worsen with the Fresh Pond Pkwy construction, when drivers will use Alpine as an alternate route. This is a dangerous problem, as there are many small children living on the street. We would welcome traffic calming, and efforts to lessen traffic on Alpine. A start would be a speed limit sign, use of a speed monitor and display device, and occasional police presence to issue warnings or tickets.

Thank you for your consideration.

- Ann Robbart # 55 Alpine St.
- Mallory Slate # 49
- Liz Marran # 44
- Karl Baden # 44
- Deborah Egbert # 37
- Derrick Egbert # 37
- Michael Brower # 30
- Norma Finkelstein # 30
- Doris Engelman # 29
- Karen Engelman # 29
- Miroslav Antic # 26
- Jodie Siegel # 21
- Susan Bernstein # 21
- Nancy Borofsky # 20

99 JUL 14 AM 11:33
CITY OF CHARLESTON
TRAFFIC & PARKING



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

September 23, 1999

Mr. Michael Brower
32 Alpine Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Brower,

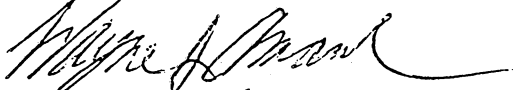
In response to your letter and petition, the Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation has reviewed and addressed some of issues that you and your neighbors listed in your petition.

1. Completed this June, the department replaced the faded "SCHOOL CROSSING" warning signs with the new Fluorescent green-yellow advance school crossing signs on both side of Alpine Street. These signs will warn drivers that a school crossing is ahead, at Alpine Street and Vassal Lane.
2. In response to your request for 15 M.P.H., the City of Cambridge is not allowed by Massachusetts State Law to make any street lower than 20 M.P.H., which is reserved, only for "School Zones". Due to the distance from the Tobin School, Alpine Street is not warranted for this classification.
The city also believes that the current 30 M.P.H. speed limit on residential streets is too fast and there is legislation pending in the Massachusetts Legislature for a 25 M.P.H. speed limit in thickly settled areas. Currently, no action has been taken.
Speed checks were conducted for 4 hours and it was observed that the average speed was 25 M.P.H. and lower. There were some vehicles that did exceed this and as a result, the Cambridge Police Department, Traffic Enforcement Division has been notified of this and was requested to conduct spot speed enforcement and to place the speed monitoring board on your street.

3. "Children At Play" signs are not posted in the city since they would be applicable to every block, and would cause drivers to not take the signs seriously.
4. Your petition has been forwarded to the Traffic Calming Project Manager to look into possible traffic calming on Alpine Street, that would slow down traffic.

Once the Fresh Pond Construction is completed, the department believes that the higher than normal volumes and speeds that you are experiencing on your street will decrease. If you have any questions or comments, please give me a call @ 349-4723.

Sincerely,



Wayne S. Amaral
Asst. Traffic Engineer

WSA/wsa



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 349-4280

FAX (617) 349-4287

TTY/TDD (617) 349-4242

Kathleen Leahy Born
City Councillor

October 8, 1999

Michael Brower
Norma Finkelstein
30 Alpine Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

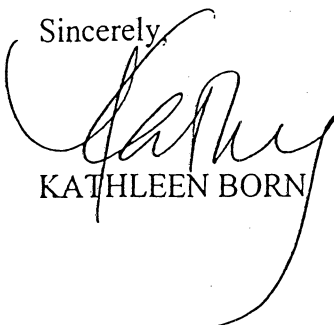
Dear Michael & Norma:

Thank you very much for sending to the members of the City Council a copy of your letter to Susan Clippinger, Director of Traffic and Parking regarding speeding on Alpine Street. The City Council at its meeting on Monday asked that Traffic and Parking look into "traffic calming" measures for Alpine Street. The City Council is committed to adding traffic calming devices such as raised intersections and widened sidewalks on many city streets. However, the design and building of traffic calming measures can often take quite a while because they involve community process, design, public bid and construction.

In your letter you also mentioned lowering and posting the speed limit. That may be a speedier, if only partial, remedy, and I am writing to update you on the progress of that request. This requires the approval of the Mass Highway Department. The city must accompany its request to the MHD with a study of existing conditions to demonstrate that the traffic situation warrants the reduced speed limit. I asked Ms. Clippinger to get the study underway as soon as possible and she informed me today that she is authorizing that work to begin immediately. It will take several weeks. Once the application goes to the MHD, approval is generally given within a couple of months. 25 MPH is apparently the lowest speed limit they will approve. The residents can work with Traffic and Parking to determine the best location for the signs.

I hope that this information is helpful. Please feel free to call me with any questions or comments at 491-2676.

Sincerely,



KATHLEEN BORN

10/25/01

D-16

MAYOR GALLUCCIO

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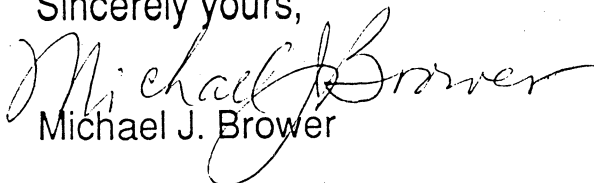
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<u>Troy Nelson</u>	<u>50</u>	_____	_____
<u>Shirley Bennett</u>	<u>25</u>	_____	_____
<u>Jancy Bordy</u>	<u>20</u>	_____	_____
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<u>John W. Scarlett</u>	<u>22</u>	_____	_____
<u>Janet S. Domowitz</u>	<u>22</u>	_____	_____
<u>Anna Tucker</u>	<u>32</u>	_____	_____
<u>Gary A. Z</u>	<u>21</u>	_____	_____
<u>Maria Cegin-L</u>	<u>21</u>	_____	_____

cc: Wayne
Kathy

To: Susan Clippinger, Director
Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department

From: Alpine Street Residents

RE: Concord Av plans and Alpine St problems

Date: July 12, 1999

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Ann Robbart # 55 Alpine St.
Mallory Slate # 49
Liz Marran # 44
Karl Baden # 44
Deborah Egbert # 37
Derrick Egbert # 37
Michael Brower # 30
Norma Finkelstein # 30
Doris Engelman # 29
Karen Engelman # 29
Miroslav Antic # 26
Jodie Siegel # 21
Susan Bernstein # 21
Nancy Borofsky # 20

99 JUL 14 AM 11:33
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
TRAFFIC & PARKING



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

September 23, 1999

Mr. Michael Brower
32 Alpine Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Brower,

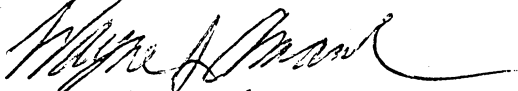
In response to your letter and petition, the Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation has reviewed and addressed some of issues that you and your neighbors listed in your petition.

1. Completed this June, the department replaced the faded "SCHOOL CROSSING" warning signs with the new Fluorescent green-yellow advance school crossing signs on both side of Alpine Street. These signs will warn drivers that a school crossing is ahead, at Alpine Street and Vassal Lane.
2. In response to your request for 15 M.P.H., the City of Cambridge is not allowed by Massachusetts State Law to make any street lower than 20 M.P.H., which is reserved, only for "School Zones". Due to the distance from the Tobin School, Alpine Street is not warranted for this classification.
The city also believes that the current 30 M.P.H. speed limit on residential streets is to fast and there is legislation pending in the Massachusetts Legislature for a 25 M.P.H. speed limit in thickly settled areas. Currently, no action has been taken.
Speed checks were conducted for 4 hours and it was observed that the average speed was 25 M.P.H. and lower. There were some vehicles that did exceed this and as a result, the Cambridge Police Department, Traffic Enforcement Division has been notified of this and was requested to conduct spot speed enforcement and to place the speed monitoring board on your street.

3. "Children At Play" signs are not posted in the city since they would be applicable to every block, and would cause drivers to not take the signs seriously.
4. Your petition has been forwarded to the Traffic Calming Project Manager to look into possible traffic calming on Alpine Street, that would slow down traffic.

Once the Fresh Pond Construction is completed, the department believes that the higher than normal volumes and speeds that you are experiencing on your street will decrease. If you have any questions or comments, please give me a call @ 349-4723.

Sincerely,



Wayne S. Amaral
Asst. Traffic Engineer

WSA/wsa



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 349-4280

FAX (617) 349-4287

TTY/TDD (617) 349-4242

Kathleen Leahy Born
City Councillor

October 8, 1999

Michael Brower
Norma Finkelstein
30 Alpine Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

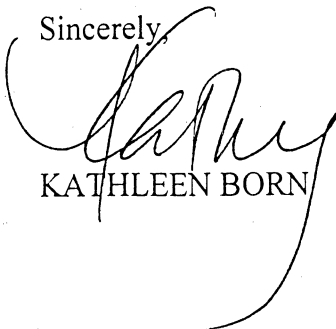
Dear Michael & Norma:

Thank you very much for sending to the members of the City Council a copy of your letter to Susan Clippinger, Director of Traffic and Parking regarding speeding on Alpine Street. The City Council at its meeting on Monday asked that Traffic and Parking look into "traffic calming" measures for Alpine Street. The City Council is committed to adding traffic calming devices such as raised intersections and widened sidewalks on many city streets. However, the design and building of traffic calming measures can often take quite a while because they involve community process, design, public bid and construction.

In your letter you also mentioned lowering and posting the speed limit. That may be a speedier, if only partial, remedy, and I am writing to update you on the progress of that request. This requires the approval of the Mass Highway Department. The city must accompany its request to the MHD with a study of existing conditions to demonstrate that the traffic situation warrants the reduced speed limit. I asked Ms. Clippinger to get the study underway as soon as possible and she informed me today that she is authorizing that work to begin immediately. It will take several weeks. Once the application goes to the MHD, approval is generally given within a couple of months. 25 MPH is apparently the lowest speed limit they will approve. The residents can work with Traffic and Parking to determine the best location for the signs.

I hope that this information is helpful. Please feel free to call me with any questions or comments at 491-2676.

Sincerely,



KATHLEEN BORN



City of Cambridge

O-16.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 29, 2001

MAYOR GALLUCCIO

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a copy of the attached letters and petition to the City Manager and requesting the City Manager to work with the Department of Traffic, Parking & Transportation and other appropriate City Departments to work with the residents of Alpine Street to address their concerns with respect to pedestrian safety.

332 CM

Order #16

Work with the residents of Alpine
Street to address their concerns
with respect to pedestrian safety.

Mayor Galluccio

In City Council October 29, 2001

ORDER ADOPTED