



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 876-6800

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

James L. Sullivan
City Manager

John H. Corcoran
Assistant City Manager

January 20, 1969

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I am pleased to notify your Honorable Body that the Federal Highway Administrator, Lowell K. Bridwell, and the Bureau of Public Roads Director, Francis C. Turner, have now signed a procedure policy which applies to all Federal-aid highway projects administered by State highway departments.

Hearings on the matter were held in Washington December 16 through 20, 1968. This procedural policy directs that State highway agencies provide public opportunity for the following:

Two public hearings on Federal-aid highway projects involving a new road location: creating a "substantially different social, economic or environmental effect" from the present effect, or an essential change in the layout or function of connecting roads or streets affected by the project. (Exceptions to this requirement are granted for low-density secondary roads.) One public hearing will precede route location decisions by the State highway agency. The second will precede design decisions.

A single hearing, combining location and design discussions, on projects not covered by the two-hearing requirements.

It also required that State highway agencies:

Solicit the views of Federal, State and local resource, recreation, planning, and other bodies in considering the development or improvement of a traffic corridor, and maintain a list upon which any such body may enroll to receive notice of proposed highway projects in the area.

Consider social, economic and environmental factors relevant to the impact of each proposed project.

Give adequate notice of hearings scheduled on a proposed project.

Provide comprehensive information about alternative routes and designs being considered by the State highway agency.

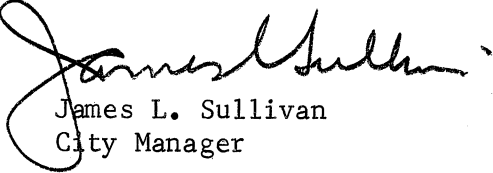
The procedures also specify in detail the manner in which State highway agencies should prepare submission of route or design proposals for approval of the division engineer of the Bureau of Public Roads. Following the division engineer's action, the procedures require that the State highway agency shall publish a narrative description of the route design as approved by the division engineer.

To the Honorable, the City Council (cont.)

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The procedures differ from the proposals considered at the hearings held by DOT in December, 1968, in that they no longer include a formal provision for appeal of the division engineer's decision to the Federal Highway Administrator. FHWA said in a preamble to the procedures that its "present practice of entertaining informal appeals will continue" pending further consideration of the appeals matter, and that it "intends to solicit suggestions concerning an appellate procedure that will serve to facilitate the ultimate disposition of highway issues without unduly delaying needed highway construction."

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

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