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Whereas:

At a recent forum on the future of Porter Square residents were asked to ~~ask~~ suggest short-term improvements to address immediate pedestrian and other safety issues; and

Whereas:

The Porter Square Neighbors Association reviewed these issues and developed the ^{following} ~~following~~ four specific, prioritized concerns, ^{which are} ~~are~~ also set forth in greater detail in the attached letter:

1. Slow down northbound traffic turning right from Massachusetts Avenue onto Somerville Avenue; and

2. Encourage northbound cars to enter the shopping center directly from Massachusetts Avenue rather than via White Street; and

3. Add time to the crosswalk at Upland Street; and

4. Reduce traffic speed and improve

vvl/9

^{of the} safety crosswalks at both ends of Beech Street;

how they can be used

Ordered: That the CM be + hereby is requested to confer w/ the Director of Traffic Parking and Transportation w/ the view in mind of implementing these proposals; and be it further

by the end
of May 11, 1957

Ordered: That the CM be requested to report back to the City Council ^{in this matter} and to ensure that there is a response from the City to ~~neighbor~~ neighborhood Association

Porter Square Neighbors Association



May 15, 1997

Ms. Susan Clippinger
Director
City Hall Annex
57 Inman St.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Ms. Clippinger:

During recent forum on The Future of Porter Square residents were asked to suggest short-term improvements to address immediate pedestrian and other safety issues. The Porter Square Neighbors Association has reviewed these issues and have the following specific, prioritized concerns and suggestions for you:

1. Slow down northbound traffic turning right from Massachusetts Avenue onto Somerville Avenue. This includes both cars originating from the direction of Harvard Square and cars turning left from Upland Street. The present curve is more like an off-ramp than a corner and encourages high-speed turns. Possible remedies would be striping to narrow the roadway, installing rumble strips, signs, and changing light timings.
2. Also encourage northbound cars to enter the shopping center directly from Massachusetts Avenue rather than via White Street. This could be done with better signs (the existing ones are small and confusing) and lane markings. An even better solution would be to forbid the northbound traffic from turning into White Street, using a "Right Turn Only" sign and green arrow on the traffic light regulating entrance to Somerville Avenue from the Massachusetts Avenue turn-off.
3. Add time to the crosswalk at Upland Street and Massachusetts Avenue. The present time (six seconds "Walk" and only nine seconds flashing) is substantially shorter than the other crosswalks in the area, which themselves give barely adequate time to cross.
4. Reduce traffic speed and improve safety of the crosswalks at both ends of Beech Street. Cars turning right from Elm to Beech cut very close to the corner and approach pedestrians from directly behind, with vision obscured by a pole. Stripes could help but a sidewalk extension would be better. Cars turning from Beech onto Massachusetts Avenue travel excessively fast and often run the light, cutting into the already inadequate pedestrian crossing time. Possible solutions include adding green time to Elm as well as extending the crossing time.

We believe that these improvements could be done without substantial costs, yet could have significant positive effects on both safety and the general attractiveness of Porter Square for pedestrians and drivers alike. In the longer term, we hope for more comprehensive changes from the sewer separation and surface improvement project.

P.O. Box 1016 Porter Square Station, Cambridge, MA 02140

E-mail: psna@user1.channel1.com / <http://www.channel1.com/users/psna>

Ms. Susan Clippinger
page 2.

We look forward to a discussion with you or a response by the end of May. Please address any correspondence on this matter to the chairman of our traffic subcommittee, John Howard, 8 Cogswell Avenue. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Paul S. Myers
President

cc: City Council
City Manager Robert Healy
Susan Schlesinger, Community Development Department
Stuart Dash, Community Development Department
Anne Johnson, Director, Somerville Traffic & Parking

Porter Square Neighbors Association



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Sincerely,



Paul S. Myers
President

cc: City Council
City Manager Robert Healy
Susan Schlesinger, Community Development Department
Stuart Dash, Community Development Department
Anne Johnson, Director, Somerville Traffic & Parking



City of Cambridge

86.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 19, 1997

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
 COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
 COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
 COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: At a recent forum on the future of Porter Square residents were asked to suggest short-term improvements to address immediate pedestrian and other safety issues; and

WHEREAS: The Porter Square Neighbors Association reviewed these issues and developed the following four specific, prioritized concerns, which are also set forth in greater detail in the attached letter:

1. Slow down northbound traffic turning right from Massachusetts Avenue onto Somerville Avenue; and
2. Encourage northbound cars to enter the shopping center directly from Massachusetts Avenue rather than via White Street; and
3. Add time to the crosswalk at Upland Street; and
4. Reduce traffic speed and improve safety of the crosswalks at both ends of Beech Street; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation with the view in mind of implementing these proposals; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter and to ensure that by the end of May, 1997, there is a response from the City to Neighborhood Associations.

In City Council May 19, 1997

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

D. Margaret Drury

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
 City Clerk

Consent Order #86

CM-307

Councillors Davis, Sullivan, Toomey
and Triantafillou re: Short-term
improvements to address immediate
pedestrian and other safety
issues from the Prter Square Neighbors
Association.

In City Council May 19, 1997

ORDER ADOPTED