



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

December 7, 1998

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 14, regarding extending the requirement for bicycle helmets through the age of 18 and a plan for a bicycle safety education program, Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger reports the following:

The most effective way to implement a change to increase the age when bicycle helmets are required is to make the change through the legislature as a statewide change. In this way, education and enforcement is consistent within the state. This improves compliance with the law, expands the groups and agencies who will pursue education efforts and improves the support for enforcement efforts.

In the last legislative session, a bill was introduced that increased the age for mandatory helmets and increased the fine for violation. There was insufficient support for the fines. A bill was reported out of the Public Safety Committee that raised the age for mandatory helmets to 17 years of age, updated helmet safety standards, but made no change in the penalties. That bill was House Bill #5333. This year the bill that came out of the Public Safety Committee will be introduced again. City Council support of this legislative effort would be beneficial in getting the bill passed into law.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

Consent Agenda #5

~~7/13~~
8025

Relative to AR #14, regarding extending
the requirement for bicycle helmets
through the age of 18 and a plan for a
bicycle safety education program.

In City Council December 7, 1998

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