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Riverside/Cambridgeport HIP • 217 Western Ave. 02139

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March 9, 2000

Just A Start House • 16 Butler Drive • Somerville, MA 02145

Telephone: 617-776-8353

Sue Clippinger
Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation
Cambridge Traffic Department
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

**RE: BUS SHELTER AT CORNER OF MASSACHUSETTS AND CHURCHILL
AVENUES IN NORTH CAMBRIDGE**

Dear Ms. Clippinger,

You asked about the history of the bus shelter removal from the corner of Churchill and Massachusetts Avenues in North Cambridge.

When Just-A-Start Corporation purchased the land at that corner from BankBoston, the bank had allowed a small portion of the land to house a bus shelter. The shelter and bench were provided by the MBTA for westbound bus patrons.

Our plans for the redevelopment of the land included building right up to the location of the shelter. Initially, we agreed to allow our land to be used again for the shelter and informed that MBTA that they could put the shelter back on our land after construction was complete if the MBTA so desired. In fact, we agreed to subdivide a small section of our land and give it to the city if this was at all helpful – that offer still stands.

When planning the development, we worked very closely with the neighborhood organization in that area, the "RCMP". The RCMP is a neighborhood association of residents of the Richard, Churchill, Clarendon, Muller, Murry Hill and Matignon Avenues. Discussion of the bus shelter did take place on more than one occasion with that group. The President of the RCMP, Lucy Conant, clearly stated that the neighborhood association did not want the bus shelter at that corner. Residents gave the following reasons:

1. Most residents felt that because the shelter served the westbound bus, not many riders used the shelter. Most bus riders at that far westerly side of Cambridge are east bound, toward Cambridge and Boston, and access the bus from the other side of Massachusetts Avenue.

2. One neighbor mentioned that it actually promoted a dangerous situation. Sometimes, people would wait at the shelter and then hurry to cross the four lanes of Massachusetts Avenue when the bus was approaching. They said the shelter should be on the other side of Massachusetts Avenue.
3. A good number of residents felt that the shelter was a visual obstruction at that difficult corner already handicapped by a poor turning radius and by a strange entry into the gas station. Since our new building is less than two feet from the former bus shelter, visibility would be further reduced after construction.
4. Some folks felt that the corner was unusually full of "street furniture" including a traffic light, a street light, an old utility pole of some sort, a mailbox, a garbage can and a bus shelter. A bench rather than a shelter appealed to some folks for aesthetic reasons.

Given the neighborhood sentiment we were hearing and our own assessment of the situation, we had to make a decision. We poured a slab and installed a very nice granite bench on that corner. We moved our fencing around the back of the bench so that the bench looks as if it is sitting on part of the sidewalk. The bench is very large, it looks attractive, serves bus patrons, allows us access to our building and does not obstruct a driver's visibility. We recommended to the MBTA and to the City that a location be found on the south side of Massachusetts Avenue to accommodate a bus shelter

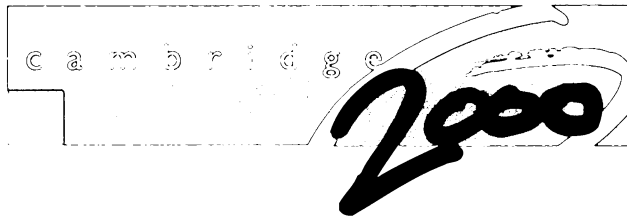
Thank you for all of your work on Cambridge traffic matters. I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,



Barbara Shaw
Housing Development Director

Cc: Lucy Conant, President RCMP



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

March 20, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-06, regarding a report on restoring the bus shelter at 2525 Massachusetts Avenue and the general policy of placing bus shelters in the City, Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger reports the following:

The bus shelter at Churchill and Massachusetts Avenues was removed during the period when Just-A-Start was building housing on the site. During the community review process, a decision was made to replace the old shelter with a bench. A communication from Just-A-Start outlining this history is attached. Based on that, neither the City nor the MBTA have any plans to install a shelter at the corner of Massachusetts and Churchill Avenues.

Historically, the City has been working with the MBTA to install bus shelters. The MBTA is no longer installing shelters and has talked about privatizing the installation of bus shelters but has no schedule for actively doing this. The City of Boston is looking to privatize the installation and maintenance of bus shelters. The City will be in touch with Boston to evaluate their experience.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment



2000 Things 2 Do in 2000

Consent Agenda #7

63(b)

~~S~~
~~JB~~

Relative to AW Rpt. #00-06,
relative to a report on
restoring the bus shelter at
2525 Mass. Ave. and the general
policy of placing bus shelters
in the City.

In City Council March 20, 2000

*Referred to Traffic, Parking
+ Transportation on
motion of Councilor
Davis.*

*3/22
sent to C. Davis*