

City of Cambridge

In City Council

January 12, 1970

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS TO GOVERNOR SARGENT SUPPORTING THE CITY OF BOSTON'S REQUEST FOR THE GENERAL DELAY IN THE ACQUISITION, DEMOLITION, AND CONSTRUCTION OF SELECTED HIGHWAYS IN THE BOSTON AREA.

WHEREAS highway construction in Cambridge, Somerville, and Boston will destroy thousands of dwelling units occupied by low and moderately low income households,

WHEREAS available Federal and State funds are inadequate at this time to build necessary new housing at rents that can be afforded by those to be displaced by the proposed highway construction,

WHEREAS demolition of these housing units will force rents in an upward spiral for the poor and lead to an ever tighter housing market throughout the metropolitan area,

WHEREAS these highway proposals are based on plans originally formulated in 1947 and have little or no relevance to local goals and needs,

WHEREAS, new approaches to planning, namely the Joint Development Concept, are about to be introduced in the case of I-695 (the Inner Belt) which will introduce the full social, economic, and environmental costs and benefits of highway construction,

WHEREAS the present schedule to begin highway construction in the South End-Roxbury area of Boston in early 1970 will nullify the use of the joint concept study planned for that area by the State Department of Public Works,

WHEREAS superior highway design solutions exist for a number of sections of highway for which construction contracts are about to be let using less satisfactory design,

WHEREAS the incremental construction approach being followed by the State DPW hides the enormous adverse traffic impacts on local streets, the improvements of which will have to be borne by the local real estate taxes,

WHEREAS, there are no current Federal or State commitments to provide, concurrently with present highway construction, the funds necessary to cover the full physical, social, and economic factors associated with the improvement of the local street system,

City of Cambridge

WHEREAS viable new highway alternatives are presently under study by the State DPW and the communities of Cambridge, Boston, Brookline, and Somerville which will be negated if present land takings, demolition, and construction schedules of the State DPW are adhered to,

WHEREAS the entire highway planning methodology upon which are based billions of dollars of capital investment which will profoundly shape the future physical development of the entire metropolitan area is open to serious question,

WHEREAS inadequate attention is being given to the introduction of currently feasible new technology, the kinds and mix of equipment and facilities, and to the construction priorities for public mass transportation,

WHEREAS the Cambridge City Council has long held the position that the DPW's planning process only served a narrow objective of building highways and failed to consider real transportation and land development alternatives or the full cost of present proposals,

WHEREAS the Governor's Task Force on Transportation is currently studying these factors with a report due to the Governor and the public in early spring,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE,

That the Cambridge City Council welcomes the support in their long standing fight against the Inner Belt of Mayor Kevin White of the City of Boston in his courageous declaration dated December 17, 1969, asking Governor Francis Sargent "for a general delay on highway construction in the Boston area".

That the Cambridge City Council is glad that the Mayor of the City of Boston has joined with the City of Cambridge in asking Governor Sargent "to order an immediate halt to any landtaking, demolition, or construction now taking place or contemplated for new highways".

That the Cambridge City Council hereby restates its previous position in specifically asking for the halting of the entire Southwest Expressway (I-95); the Inner Belt from Somerville through Cambridge and the South End; the Third Harbor Crossing; Interstate 93 in any section not already contracted for construction; and the Winthrop connector".

That the Cambridge City Council also asks the Governor to halt the preparation of any plans for the Route 2 Extension.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That all concerned citizens inform Governor Sargent of their support of this action by the City Council of the City of Cambridge.

City Council Jan 12, 1970

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 9 members

Paul E. Healy
Temp City Clerk



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

James L. Sullivan
City Manager

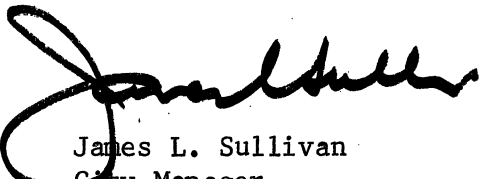
John H. Corcoran
Assistant City Manager

January 12, 1970

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I transmit herewith a redrafted resolution for consideration by the City Council requesting a general delay in the acquisition, demolition and construction of selected highways in the Boston area.

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/eb

COMMUNICATION
from the City Manager trans-
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RESOLUTIONS

Approval