

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
City Hall Annex Inman & Broadway EXTENSION 344

To James L. Sullivan, City Manager

From Richard Easler, Transportation Coordinator *R.E.* **Date** February 22, 1980

Subject Smith Place/Rindge Avenue Extension Roadway Improvement Project (Alewife Boulevard)

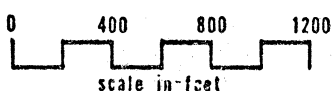
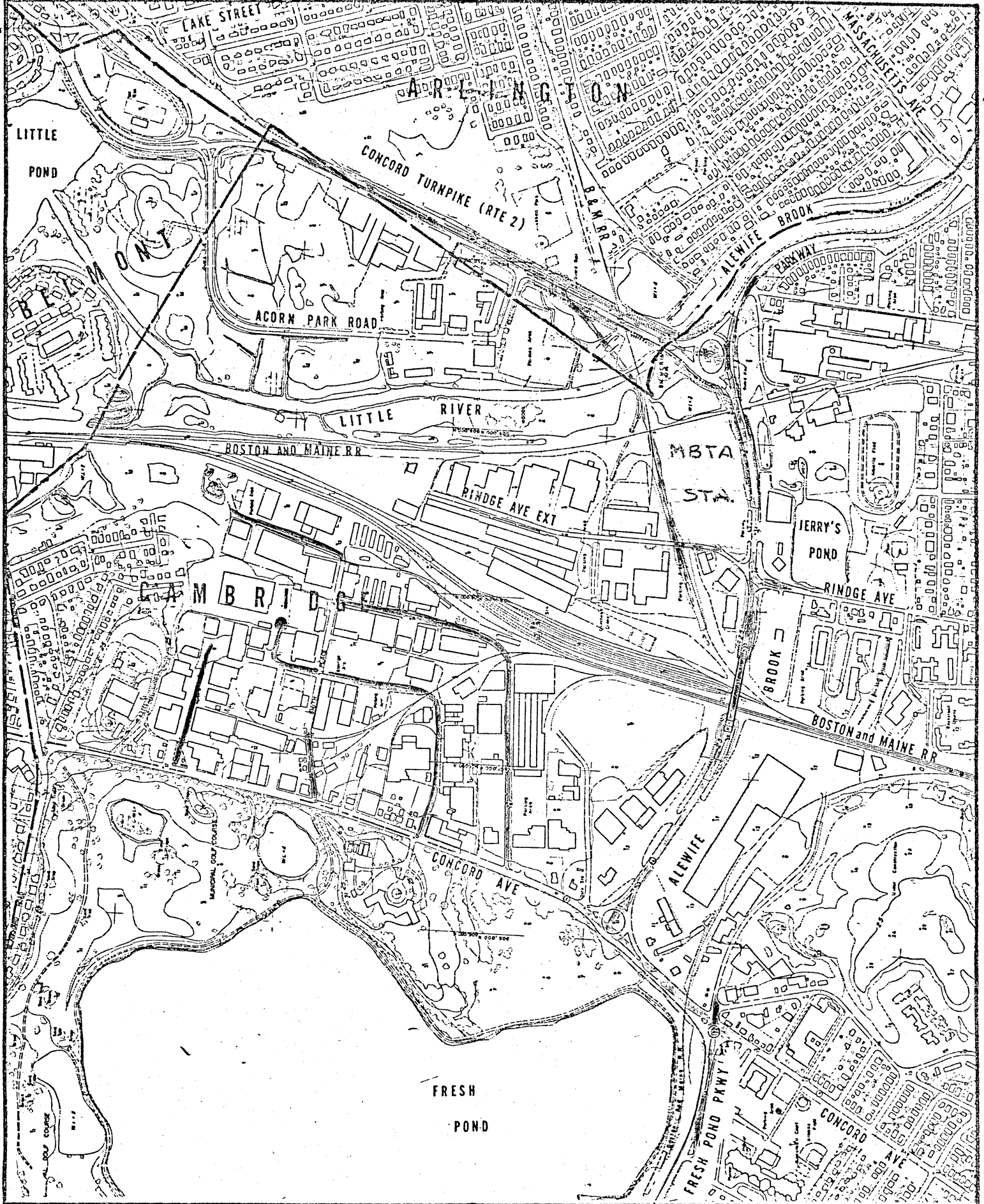
Roadway improvements for the Alewife Area of Cambridge have been under study now for several decades. As an outgrowth of the Boston Transportation Planning Review (BTPR) a decision was made not to extend Route 2 as a freeway into Cambridge and Somerville. In its place, as we all are aware, is to be a new transit station at Alewife with a 2000-car parking garage. The Massachusetts Department of Public Works (MDPW) is now completing the environmental clearance process for major roadway improvements to Route 2 and Alewife Brook Parkway including direct ramps from Route 2 to the new transit station garage and Rindge Avenue Extension.

In view of the State's commitment to improving access to the Alewife area, the Community Development Department began planning for the revitalization of the area in late 1974. This effort has culminated in the publication of the Alewife Revitalization Report in May of 1979 and the rezoning proposal now under consideration by the City Council. An integral part of this revitalization effort has always been the desire to connect the "triangle and quadrangle" parts of Alewife with some sort of roadway. The current proposal for connecting Smith Place and Rindge Avenue Extension (Alewife Boulevard) was formulated as far back as December of 1976 when in a letter to then Transportation Secretary Salvucci, the City requested that the connection be incorporated into the State's roadway improvement package.

The proposed "Alewife Boulevard" will serve several functions. First, it will organize local traffic circulation into safer and more efficient patterns. Next, it will relieve some of the traffic pressures on Alewife Brook Parkway and Concord Avenue by allowing quadrangle industrial area traffic to reach Route 2 directly. Since the roadway will parallel much of the land now available for development, it will promote revitalization in those areas as well as providing a new visual amenity running through the center of the entire Alewife area. Finally, this new connection will enable buses to travel through the development area with direct access to the new transit station thereby providing increased transit service and reducing dependence on automobile use.

The various roadway projects in the Alewife area are illustrated on the attached map. The MDPW project is shown in blue and is still in the environmental clearance process stage with construction probably three years away. The City's EDA roadway improvement project, shown in green is now under design with construction likely within the year. The proposed Smith Place/Rindge Avenue Connector (Alewife Boulevard) is shown in red (phase I) and yellow (phase II). This project has been accepted by the MDPW for funding under the Federal Urban Systems Program. A contract is now being negotiated to undertake the engineering required for the environmental clearance process.

The "Alewife Boulevard" project has been divided into two phases because of the critical need to make safety and capacity improvements at the Smith Place/Concord Avenue intersection. Smith Place at this location currently has only a 33 foot right-of-way with a narrow roadway carrying 3000 vehicles per day. In 1979, 11 traffic accidents occurred at the intersection. By the year 2000, traffic on this roadway will increase by as much as 50 percent to 4500 vehicles per day even if phase II of the project is implemented. If phase II is not implemented, traffic on Smith Place will more than double to 7500 vehicles per day. The decision which must be made is whether to make improvements now or later at a much higher cost.

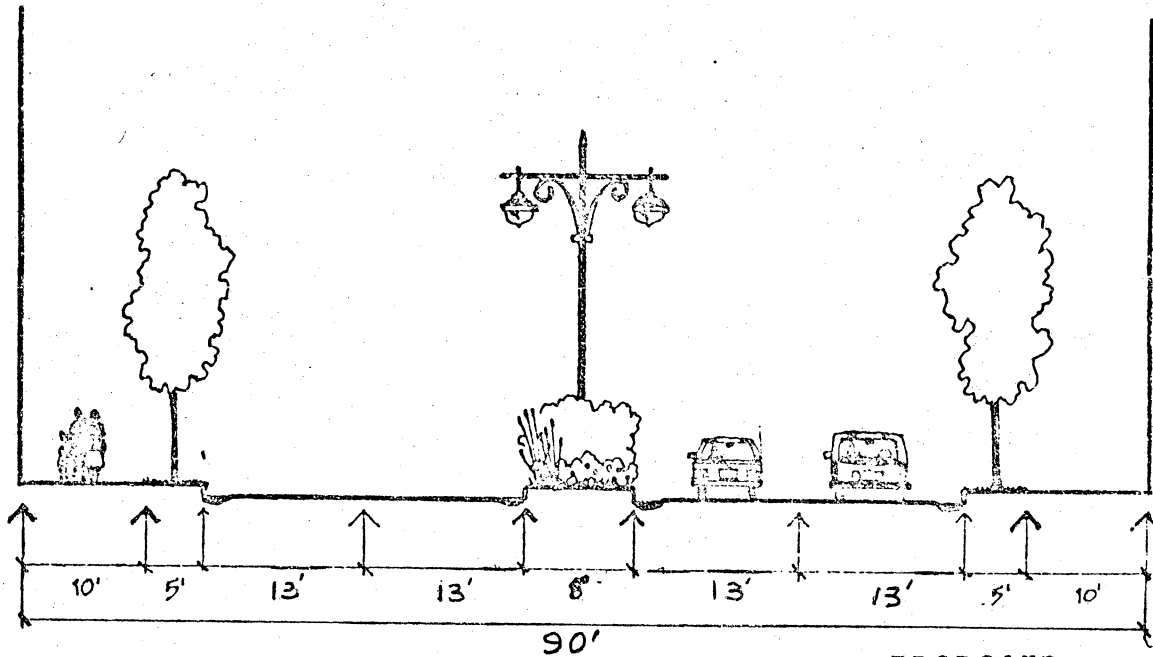


ALEWIFE ROADWAY PROJECTS

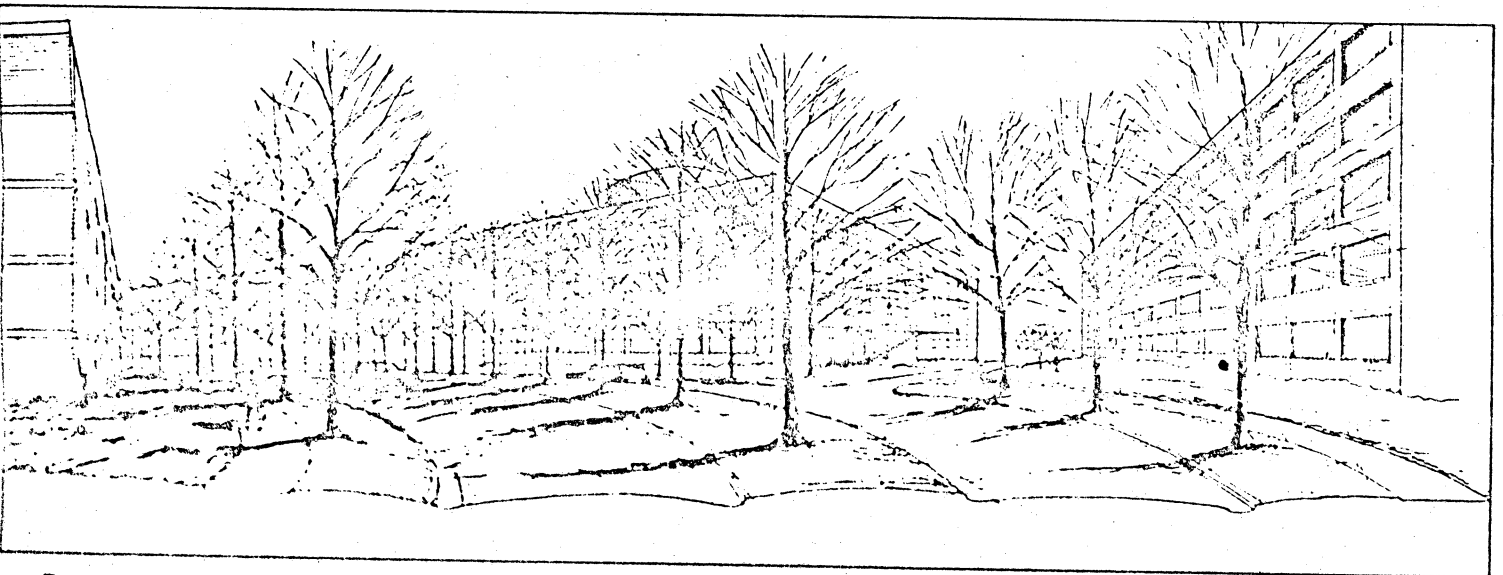
URBAN SYSTEMS I — MDPW —

URBAN SYSTEMS II — EDA —

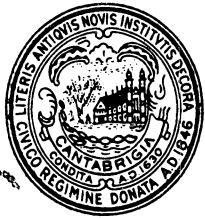
PROPOSED
SMITH PLACE/RINDGE AVENUE EXTENSION CONNECTOR
(ALEWIFE BOULEVARD)



PROPOSED
ROADWAY CROSS-SECTION



Example of Improvement Possible: Alewife Boulevard



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

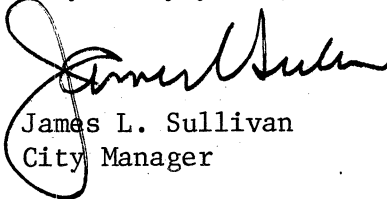
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

February 25, 1980

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I enclose herewith a report from Richard Easler, Transportation Coordinator of the Community Development Department, relative to the Smith Place/Rindge Avenue Extension Roadway Improvement Project (Alewife Boulevard).

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

15-78

Report from Richard Easler, Transportation
Coordinator of the Community Development
Dept., on the Smith Place/Rindge Avenue
Extension Roadway Improvement Project.

In City Council,
February 25, 1980

2/25/1980

Placed on File-

Placed on File