

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

57 Inman Street • Cambridge MA 02139 • 617.349.4604

April 22, 1994

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: Elizabeth Epstein, Director, Environmental Program *ed*

RE: Council Order # 29, dated 4/4/94
Questions on Truck Restrictions

The city is undertaking numerous actions to address concerns about truck traffic throughout Cambridge. These actions include: working closely with state agencies to address regional policies and actions affecting freight and hazardous cargo traffic; working with other communities in the region to promote development and adoption of state policy to assist in reducing truck traffic in residential areas; evaluating the feasibility of carrying out traffic studies and truck classification counts in Cambridge to assist in defining appropriate local actions including analyzing potential new truck bans; and working with consultants to design and implement traffic studies that will identify further actions to relieve truck traffic problems.

The city is currently discussing with state transportation officials the design and implementation of a major, comprehensive regional truck study. This study would identify the origins and destinations of trucks traveling in the region, including those that travel into or through Cambridge. The data from this study would provide the basis for creating a regional truck model to be used to analyze impacts of local and regional truck restrictions intended to reduce or eliminate truck traffic on residential streets and encourage through truck traffic to travel by highway and major arterial roadways. The availability of such a model would allow the city to fully evaluate potential local and state actions to redirect truck traffic. Because of the scale and complexity of this task, carrying out this study and creating the truck traffic model could take two to five years with costs in excess of a million dollars.

Despite the long time frame, these efforts to work with the state and other communities to implement this study are critical to creating the conditions in which changes in truck routing could occur. It is extremely difficult to implement truck restrictions on a regional and state level because of state and federal regulations regarding commerce and because the trucking industry resists through strong and effective lobbying at the state and federal level further limitations on truck travel. It is incumbent on local communities proposing restrictions to demonstrate the impacts of those restrictions both locally and in neighboring communities. When large scale changes are sought, predicting these impacts is very difficult without the use of such a comprehensive regional model.

In addition to pursuing these state actions, the city and its consultants are evaluating the feasibility of conducting a city-wide truck survey to serve as the basis for evaluating potential new local and state restrictions while a comprehensive regional model is not yet available. Should this approach appear to be a feasible and fundable means of addressing truck traffic concerns in the city, a proposed scope and schedule of implementation will be developed.

The city is also working with its consultants to design and implement a baseline traffic study to collect data on current traffic patterns and volumes in Cambridge that may be altered as a result of traffic diversions during construction of the Central Artery Project in downtown Boston. Although the primary goal of this study is to provide the basis for Central Artery related traffic monitoring, the study is being designed to provide as much useful truck traffic information as possible within the constraints of currently available technology and resources. In preparation for this study, the Traffic and Parking Department is upgrading certain traffic signal controls by installing loop detectors at critical locations.

These improved signal control technologies will assist the city in traffic control in several ways. The loop detectors will facilitate data collection by allowing continuous traffic volume counts at these locations. The loop detectors will also improve intersection operations by continuously automatically adjusting signal timing in response to actual changes in traffic volumes. We are closely following advances in traffic control technologies so that we may enhance the data collection and traffic management capacity of our system as new products become available.

I will keep you informed of progress on these matters.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Traffic and Parking
57 Inman Street,
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

George Teso
Director

Administration	349-4700
Parking Violations	349-4705
Resident Parking	349-4701

DATE: April 20, 1994

TO: Robert Healy, City Manager

FROM: Lauren M. Preston *LM* Deputy Traffic Director

SUBJECT: Council Order #29 dated April 4, 1994
Communication #11 dated March 31, 1994

RE: Questions on Truck Restrictions

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The Department of Traffic and Parking continues to work with various City Departments and neighborhoods towards removing heavy commercial through truck traffic from our public ways. There are currently fifty roadways or sections of roadway from which heavy truck, those over 2½ tons, are excluded. These restrictions are legal, correctly signed and enforceable except Brattle St. and Mason Street. I have attached schedule 12 of the traffic regulations which is an alphabetical listing of these streets and includes the limits and date the regulation became effective. The "B" or "EB" number in the first column is the Mass. Highway Dept. (M.H.D.) permit number which has been issued to the City of Cambridge.

Before the M.H.D. can issue a permit as required by Chapter 85 section 2 of the M.G.L., an engineering study must be made, one of three warrants met and an alternate route which meets one of the following conditions must be designated.

Alternate route shall:

1. Lie wholly within the community making application,
2. Lie partially in an adjacent community but only on State Highway,
- or 3. Lie partially in an adjacent community but have the adjacent community's written approval.

The Engineering study which must be submitted to the M.H.D. by the municipality shall include at least the following nine items before the request for a truck restriction can be considered.

- A. A twenty-four hour consecutive count of all vehicles using the subject street. (If the exclusion is requested for only twelve hours, a twelve hour count will suffice.) The count shall be broken into one-half hour intervals showing:
 - 1. Commercial vehicles with a carrying capacity of over 2½ tons
 - 2. Other vehicles
- B. Map of the area, with the excluded street marked in red, the alternate route in green.
- C. Physical characteristics of excluded and alternate streets in question, i.e., length, width, type and condition of surface and sidewalks.
- D. Types of buildings or property abutting street (Residential, Business, School, Playground, etc.).
- E. Zoning of Streets (Residential, Industrial, etc.)
- F. Proximity of probable alternate route to the proposed excluded route and the additional distance to be travelled using the alternate route.
- G. Types of traffic control existing on street.
- H. Hours during which exclusions is to be in effect.
- I. A written statement from the municipality as to the need for the exclusion.

This report must show that the proposed truck restriction will meet one or more of the following warrants.

- A. A volume of heavy commercial vehicles, which usually is in the range of five (5) to eight (8) percent, reduces the utilization of the facility and is cause for a substantial reduction in capacity or safety.
- B. The condition of the pavement structure of the route to be excluded indicates that further repeated heavy wheel loads will result in severe deterioration of the roadway.
- C. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in certain instances where land use is primarily residential in nature and a municipality has requested an exclusion only during hours of darkness, a specific night exclusion may be granted.

This study is submitted to the State Traffic engineer at the M.H.D. for their review. The City is notified if our requested truck restriction is approved. If approved, a regulation is written and published in a local

newspaper for three weeks and a copy of the regulation is submitted to the State for them to issue a "Traffic Regulation Permit" for a heavy commercial-vehicle exclusion to the City.

It is the policy of the Department not to remove truck traffic from one residential street and have it use another residential street. When conducting the engineering study, the Department tries to develop an alternate truck route using major roadways designed to take heavy vehicle loads and which bypass residential areas.

CC: Birge Albright, Law Dept.

2/12/87

SECTION 21.12 HEAVY COMMERCIAL VEHICLES PROHIBITED FROM USING CERTAIN STREETS

When signs are erected giving notice thereof, no person shall operate a heavy commercial vehicle except as provided under section 17.2, upon any of the following streets or parts of streets:

STREET	FROM	TO	HOURS	EFF DATE
✓ Bay (B4797) *(ALTERNATE ROUTE-) *(Central Artery and Mass. Turnpike, EXCEPT-7AM to 7PM, Mon-Fri when River St. and Western Avenue are not restricted to commercial traffic)	Kinnaird Mass. Ave., Main St.,	to just N of Green Binney St. Third St., O'Brien Highway,	All	9 Dec 82
✓ Beech (EB049-5364)	Mass. Ave.	Elm St. (Som)	All	3 Oct 86
✓ Blanchard Rd. (B3675) *(ALTERNATE ROUTE-) to *(Concord Ave.-	Concord Ave. Route 2 to Alewife Brook Pkwy. and Mass. Ave. to Garden St.)	Belmont Town Line	All	1 Nov 79
✓ Brattle (B1666)	Mason	Mt. Auburn	All	28 Dec /2
✓ Cameron Avenue (EB049-5364)	Mass. Ave.	Somerville City Line	All	3 Oct 86
✓ Chester (EB049-5364)	Mass. Ave.	Somerville City Line	All	3 Oct 86
✓ Clarendon Avenue (B3049) *(ALTERNATE ROUTE-) * Mass. Ave. to Cameron Ave., to Holland St. and Broadway, Somerville)	Mass. Ave.	Somerville City Line	All	23 Jun 77
✓ Columbia (EB049-5466)	Main	Cambridge	All	30 Jan 87
✓ Columbus Ave. (B2280)	Mass. Ave.	Kimball	All	24 Oct 74
✓ Coolidge Ave. (13649)	Mt. Auburn	Watertown Line	All	4 Aug 66
✓ Coolidge Hill Rd. (13649)	Eastern End	Western End	All	4 Aug 66
✓ Day St. (EB049-5364)	Mass. Ave.	Somerville City Line	All	3 Oct 86
✓ Dover (EB049-5364)	Somerville City Line	Mass. Ave.	All	3 Oct 86
✓ Edmunds (B2969)	Mass. Ave.	Westerly to End	All	10 Mar 77
✓ Eighth (B1585)	Spring	Cambridge	All	19 Oct 72
✓ Fifth (B1585)	Cambridge	Charles	All	19 Oct 72
✓ Fifth (EB049-5100)	Cambridge	Winter	All	5 Apr 84
✓ Franklin (B4797) *(ALTERNATE ROUTE-) *Central Artery and Mass. Turnpike, EXCEPT 7AM-7PM, Monday through Friday when River St. and Western Avenue are not restricted to commercial traffic)	Putnam Ave. Mass. Ave., Main St.,	Pleasant Binney St., Third St., O'Brien Highway,	All	9 Dec 82
✓ Gore (EB049-5100)	Lambert	Third	All	5 Apr 84

SCHEDULE 12

SECTION 21.12 HEAVY COMMERCIAL VEHICLES PROHIBITED FROM USING CERTAIN STREETS

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STREET	FROM	TO	HOURS	EFF DATE
✓ Green (B4797) * <u>ALTERNATE ROUTE</u> -) *Central Artery and Mass. Turnpike, EXCEPT 7AM-7PM, Monday through Friday when River St. and Western Avenue are not restricted to commercial traffic)	Sellers Mass. Ave., Main St.,	Putnam Avenue Binney St., Third St., O'Brien Highway,	All	9 Dec 82
✓ Harrison Avenue (B2280) Hurley (B1585)	Columbus Avenue Third	Whittemore Avenue Sixth	All All	24 Oct 74 9 Dec 82
✓ Irving (13649)	Scott	Kirkland	All	4 Aug 66
✓ Kimball (B2280) Kirkland (E-B-049-6120)	Seagrave OXFORD ST.	Whittemore QUINCY ST.	All ALL	24 Oct 74 26 Aug 93
✓ Madison (B2280) ✓ Magoun (B2280) ✓ Mason (westbound veh. only) (B1666)	Columbus Massachusetts Ave. Garden	Whittemore Ave. Whittemore Ave. Brattle	All All All	24 Oct 74 24 Oct 74 28 Dec 72
*(<u>ALTERNATE ROUTE</u> - shall be via Mt. Auburn St. or Concord Ave. and Route 16, Fresh Pond Pkwy., Huron Avenue and Aberdeen Avenue)				
Middlesex (B049-5374)	Rindge Ave.	Femberton	Mon-Sat- 11P-7A & Sat 4P- Mon 7A	3-8-86 18/Jan/86 30 Jan 87
✓ Otis (B1585) OXFORD (E-B-049-6120)	Third BEACON ST.	Fulkerson KIRKLAND ST.	All ALL	19 Oct 72 26 Aug 93

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STREET	FROM	TO	HOURS	EFF DATE
✓ *Prospect (EB 049-5466) *(ALTERNATE ROUTE-Mass. Ave. to Main St. to Western Connector to Binney St. to First St. to Commercial Ave.)	Massachusetts Ave.	Somerville City Line	All	30 Jan 87
✓ Rindge Avenue (13649)	Mass. Ave.	Alewife Brook Pkwy.	All	4 Aug 66
✓ *River (B 2209) *Except trucks carrying dangerous articles which cannot go under the Pru or South Station tunnel or use MDC Roadways)	Memorial Drive	Western Avenue	7A-7A 18 Jul 74 Mon-Fri & Sat & Sun	
✓ Russell (EB 049-5364)	Mass. Ave.	Somerville City Line	All	3 Oct 86
✓ Sciarappa (EB-049-5100)	Cambridge	Msgr. O'Brien Hwy.	All	5 Apr 84
✓ Sciarappa (B 1585)	Cambridge	Charles	All	19 Oct 72
✓ Scott (13649)	Irving	Somerville Line	All	4 Aug 66
✓ Seagrave Road (B 2280)	Kimball	Whittemore Avenue	All	24 Oct 74
✓ Seventh (B 1585)	Cambridge	Spring	All	19 Oct 72
✓ Seventh (EB 049-5100)	Cambridge	Gore	All	5 Apr 84
✓ Spring (B 1585)	Third	Fulkerson	All	19 Oct 72
✓ Sixth (EB 049-5100)	Cambridge	Gore	All	5 Apr 84
✓ Sixth (13649)	Cambridge	Spring	All	4 Aug 66
✓ Third (EB 049-5466)	Binney	Msgr. O'Brien Highway	All	30 Jan 87
✓ Thorndike (B 1585)	Third	Fulkerson	All	19 Oct 72
✓ *Walden (B 3113) *(ALTERNATE ROUTE-to Concord Avenue to Garden St. to Mass. Ave.)	Concord Avenue	Massachusetts Avenue	All	20 Oct 77
✓ *Washburn Avenue (B 3049) *(ALTERNATE ROUTE- Mass. Ave. to Cameron Ave., to	Massachusetts Avenue	Somerville City Line Holland & Broadway, Som.)	ALL 7A-7A	23 Jun 77

SCHEDULE 12

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STREET	FROM	TO	HOURS	EFF DATE
✓ Western Avenue (022092)	Massachusetts Avenue	Memorial Drive	7P-7A Mon-Fri & All Day Sat & Sun	13 Jul 74
✓ Windsor Street (03049-5466)	Main Street	Cambridge Street	All	30 Jan 87
✓ Winter Street (03049-5100)	Fifth Street	Msgr. O'Brien Hwy.	All	5 Apr 84



City of Cambridge Police Department



TELEPHONE
(617) 349-3300

FAX
(617) 349-3320

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
5 WESTERN AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

MEMORANDUM

TO: Police Commissioner
Perry L. Anderson, Jr.

DATE: April 21, 1994

FROM: Superintendent
Harold F. Murphy

SUBJECT: Truck Restriction
Enforcement
Re: Progress report

Sir:

Attached are the Sections, and Unit reports on truck restriction enforcement over the period of two (2) weeks:

The posted truck restrictions, on designated streets, weight limits, and speeding at designated locations are included.

Citations Issued:

Patrol Section Days:	fifty	50	
Patrol Section Nights	twenty -six	26	Total = 76

Also included are instructions to the Selective Enforcement Unit (Traffic) and all other Patrol Units have been receiving roll call training and specific assignments to these locations at these roll calls from Sergeant Ahern.

=====

The continuing efforts and reports will be more site specific such as:

Western Avenue....x	# citations
River Street.....x	" "
Prospect Street...x	" "
Brattle Street....x	" "
Oxford Street.....x	" "
Walden Street.....x	" "
Rindge Avenue.....x	" "
Third Street.....x	" "
Sixth Street.....x	" "



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ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
5 WESTERN AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Deputy Pimentel

FROM: Sergeant Ahern *Sgt SP Ahern*

DATE: April 21, 1994

SUBJECT: Trucking

Currently the Cambridge Police Uniform Division is targeting trucking violations throughout the city. All divisions are actively enforcing violation pertaining to trucks, these include truck weight bans, truck bans, speeding violations and all moving violations not covered by specific city ordinance. During the last two weeks the uniform division has issued 50 plus citations relative to trucking violations.

Several truck companies have been contacted and advised of the enforcement actions and requested that they advise their drivers to respect the truck bans in place within Cambridge borders. The Massachusetts State Police are assisting the Cambridge Police with enforcement action and role call education is taking place relative to trucking rules and regulation.



City of Cambridge Police Department



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INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Deputy Pimentel

FROM: Sergeant Ahern *CPA*

DATE: April 20, 1994

REFERENCE: Truck Enforcement Progress Report

As per your request the latest update on the truck enforcement is as follows:

Officer Long has been assigned to truck enforcement along Walden St.

Officer Bentubo has been assigned to trucks speeding along Brattle St.

Officer John Albert has been assigned to truck enforcement along Prospect St.

Officer Xavier has been assigned to truck enforcement along Third St.

The Patrol Division has been requested to assign officers to the above locations on a daily basis.

The Night Patrol Division has been requested to assign officers to the enforcement of the 7P.M.-7A.M. the truck ban along Western Ave. and River St.

Additionally the Traffic Department has been requested to assist the Police Department with a traffic count along Walden st., River Street, Prospect Street and Western Avenue for trucks over a one week period.

The Massachusetts State Police Department has been contacted to assist the Cambridge Police Department with the enforcement of weight restrictions through out the City of Cambridge.

Day Patrol Division has assigned area cars to trucking enforcement as follows:

1. Car 1 Third Street
2. Car 3 Prospect Street
3. Car 5 Walden Street

Daily reports are submitted by officers in regards to the enforcement.

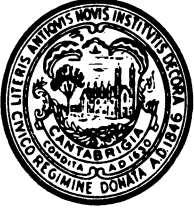
Preliminary statistics will be completed by April 26, 1994.

A listing of city-wide truck ban locations by Thursday, April 21st will be distributed to all Patrol Sergeants and Lieutenants.

In addition, contact will be made with the principal trucking dispatcher alerting trucking firms to the stringent enforcement of truck bans in the city. Contact should be confirmed by Friday, April 22, 1994.

Also, Traffic and Parking along with this department has requested clarification from the City Solicitors' office relative to jurisdiction of ICC regulations over city ordinances/laws. State Police likewise will be requested to clarify this matter.

cc: Commissioner Anderson
Superintendent Murphy



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

April 25, 1994

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report #28 regarding questions on truck restrictions, attached please find three reports from the following individuals:

Elizabeth Epstein, Executive Director of the Environmental Program, on actions the City is taking to identify truck traffic patterns and to develop a means of evaluating potential local or State restrictions;

Lauren Preston, Deputy Traffic Director, on current truck restrictions and State criteria for implementing such restrictions; and

Perry Anderson, Police Commissioner, on enforcement efforts.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Attachments

Consent Agenda #13

S-182

Transmitting comm. from R.W. Healy
relative to Awaiting Report Item
28 re: truck restrictions.

for original order
See 1994 City Manager's
Requests # 97

In City Council April 25, 1994

Referred to Traffic
& Transportation
Committee.

4/29/94 copy sent to
Traffic & Transportation
Committee @