



Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner

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TO: Robert W. Healy
City Manager

FROM: *[Signature]* Ralph E. Dunphy
Public Works Commissioner

DATE: August 29, 1995

RECEIVED
95 AUG 30 AM 9:27
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: Council Order #73, dated 7/31/95
RE: Report on the Railroad Underpass at
Richdale Avenue and Yerxa Road
Council Order #45, dated 7/31/95
RE: Safety Concerns with Railroad
Underpass at Richdale Avenue &
Yerxa Road

Extending the length of the apron at either end of the Railway underpass at Richdale Avenue and Yerxa Road to improve visibility does not appear to be feasible and is not recommended for completion at this time.

Underground facilities located in the immediate vicinity of the tunnel will have to be relocated to accommodate any excavation in conjunction with grade changes to construct the aprons. Two sewer lines and one water main are in alignment with the tunnel under the railroad. These lines also cross in front of the tunnel to service the area at Pemberton and Yerxa, as well as Walden Court and Richdale Avenue. The relocation of these utilities would require six months to a year to design, plan, fund and construct. Cost would be considerable.

If these ramps are to be constructed handicap accessibility requirements to the tunnel will have to be addressed to insure compliance with ADA. We anticipate that the ADA requirements will add to the time and cost of the project.

Many other improvements have been made and are in place to improve the public safety in this area. They include:

- Removal of debris in the tunnel and outside on each end.
- All weeds, debris, high vegetation, and trash has been removed from each end of the tunnel and on the vacant lot on the Walden Square side of the tunnel. The maintenance of the vegetation on the vacant lot is intended to increase the visibility for the area.
- Maintenance of the tunnel is completed on a daily basis.
- Installation of lights inside the tunnel that remain on 24 hours a day.
- Installation of area lights outside both entrances of the tunnel.



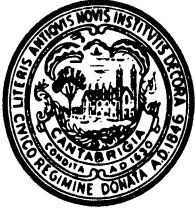
- Tunnel has been painted to aid in the reflection of the light.
- Tunnel and stairs are being cleared daily.
- All high vegetation has been removed in the vicinity of both entrances and is being maintained.
- All trash and debris has been removed from the area.
- Repair of fencing.

Improvements in progress that add to public safety include:

- Installation of a pump for drainage in the tunnel.
- Repair of the stairs at each entrance.
- Installation of handrails at each entrance.

Security

- Police Department personnel are in communication with Walden Apartment Management and concerned residents about the security of the area.
- Police personnel have been assigned to walk through the tunnel on an hourly basis. The scheduled hours are from late afternoon (approximately 4:00PM) to 2:00AM. Police have also indicated they will patrol the tunnel area in the early morning prior to school hours.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

September 11, 1995

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item Nos. 42 and 63, regarding repairs to the bridge and railroad underpass at Richdale Avenue and Yerxa Road, please find attached a report from Public Works Commissioner Ralph E. Dunphy.

In addition, Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan E. Clippinger reports the following: According to the FY96-98 Transportation Improvement Program, which was approved on August 11, 1995 by the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Walden Street bridge, over the Fitchburg division railroad, is proposed to be replaced during FY97. The cost is estimated at \$1,000,000 of which 80% will come from the Federal Government and 20% from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda Item Number 17

S-274

Response to Awaiting Report Item Numbers
Forty-Two and Sixty-Three regarding
repairs to the bridge and railroad under-
pass at Richdale Avenue and Yerxa Road.

Rep # 42. for original
See 1995 City Manager
Requests # 273

Rep # 63. for original
See 1995 City Manager
Requests # 327,

In City Council,

Sept. 11, 1995

Placed on file