



In Council packets
5/9/03

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

May 7, 2003

To the Honorable, the City Council

I am pleased to submit to you the final report of the Riverside Study Committee; this report represents the 18-month effort of the Committee.

The Riverside Study Committee met between April 2000, and January 2003. During that time, with the assistance of the Community Development Department (CDD) and the consultant team of Stull & Lee Inc retained by the City, the committee analyzed neighborhood issues and opportunities, explored numerous alternative development scenarios and hosted two community-wide workshops. The Committee looked broadly at neighborhood wide issues and more in depth at future development options for several key sites that were of paramount interest to members of the Committee and community at large. Topics considered included housing, land use and zoning, urban design, transportation, open space, and institutional use. Through this process of learning, discussing, gathering feedback from the community, the committee developed recommendations to better the neighborhood.

I hope that this study/update will prove valuable to as you consider proposed changes to zoning which are before you. I encourage you to contact Beth Rubenstein, Assistant City Manager for Community Development, if you have questions or would like more information.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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May 5, 2003

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 03-38, regarding a report on plan to enhance bus stops with benches and shelters, particularly around City-owned property, Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger reports the following:

There are approximately 300 MBTA bus stops in the city. Our transportation programs include efforts to encouraging increased use of the MBTA services. Last fall we installed the new MBTA bus stop signs at all bus stops in the City. MBTA provided the signs and the city installed them. We were the first municipality to have the new signs at all our bus stops.

Another important incentive to encourage use of the MBTA is to increase the number of benches and bus shelters at the bus stops, especially at the stops with 100 or more passengers boarding. The existing 26 shelters in the City are owned and maintained by either the City or the MBTA. Currently the MBTA does not have a program to provide additional shelters. The MBTA does little or no maintenance or cleaning of their shelters. The City owned shelters are cleaned and maintained by DPW. There are 45 high volume bus stops with 100 or more boardings. Many of these already have a shelter or bench and several will have shelters or benches added as part of upcoming construction.

Recently developers of large projects have been required to install and maintain bus shelters as a condition of their Planning Board permit. There are 7 new shelters that will be installed and maintained by various development projects under this initiative.

The City of Boston has taken a different approach and is installing the Wall System shelters, phones and freestanding panels that have advertising incorporated in them. The advertising revenue pays for the installation and maintenance.

The City is continuing to pursue a variety of ways to increase the number of bus stops with a bench or a shelter. Two particular initiatives are underway this summer. One is to inventory all bus stops to determine site conditions, sidewalk width, and adjacent land use so that locations that can accommodate a shelter or a bench are identified. The second initiative is to investigate the option doing what Boston is doing, and have a contractor install and maintain shelters that would be funded by advertising. The Council will be kept appraised of any recommendations that come from the ongoing work.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

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S-168

Consent Agenda #6

Awaiting Report Item No. 03-38,
regarding a report on plan to enhance
bus stops with benches and shelters,
particularly around City-owned
properties.

In City Council May 5, 2003

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