

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

Susan E. Clippinger
Director

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

April 20, 1999

TO: Robert Healy, City Manager

FROM: Susan E. Clippinger, Director *SC*

SUBJECT: Council Order #030 dated 4/5/99

RE: Report on the possibility of placing a warning sign in the vicinity of Huron Village similar to the sign at the Marriott Hotel on Broadway

A warning sign similar to the one in Kendall Square can be considered for Huron Ave. There is currently an ongoing effort to determine with both residents and businesses in the area what safety improvements should be made in the Huron Village area.

The Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department and the Community Development Department have been meeting with the residents and businesses in the Huron Village area since a pedestrian was hit and seriously injured on October 20, 1998. Between meetings, staff have developed a series of alternatives for safety improvements as well as collecting information about signalized intersections in the area.

Following a City Council hearing held on November 2, 1998, information was distributed to the neighborhood and a community meeting was held on Saturday, December 5, 1998. Based on comments received at that meeting, information on the problems and options for improvement were modified, a new information packet was distributed and a second community meeting was held on January 21, 1999.

The consensus of the people who had participated in the community meetings and commented to the city via email supported the creation of median slow points or pedestrian refugees at Lakeview and Fayerweather.

At the request of the businesses, city staff met with them on February 25, 1999 for several hours to hear their comments and review the work that had been done to date. From that meeting, the city further revised the plan to dramatically reduce the parking spaces lost. The revised plan was mailed to the businesses on March 31, 1999. A copy of that mailing is attached.

If the businesses support this modification, the next step is to take the revisions to a final community meeting. If there is consensus on the plan, it would be implemented next year with the Fayerweather Street and Concord Ave. (rotary to Huron) traffic calming changes.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Dear Business:

April 1, 1999

BETH RUBENSTEIN

Acting Assistant City
Manager for Community
Development

The October 1998 crash on Huron Avenue involving a motorist striking and causing serious injury to a young child in the crosswalk brought renewed attention to the issue of pedestrian safety on Huron Avenue. The City has been working with the community to develop a plan to improve safety on Huron Avenue. To date, two community meetings and a meeting with businesses have been held.

At the meetings, community members highlighted a number of safety issues in the Huron Village area. Information was presented at the meetings and through mailings concerning signals, traffic calming and various options for improving safety.

At the second meeting, there was strong support to construct Median Slow Points / Pedestrian Refuge Islands at Lakeview Avenue and Fayerweather Street because they address many of the safety concerns that have been raised on Huron Avenue. Participants also agreed that continued education and enforcement are priorities.

The next step was to review plans further with business owners in Huron Village. Susan Clippinger, Director of the Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation and I met with a group of business owners in February. At this meeting, the business owners expressed concern about the impacts of the plan on parking and they requested that the City evaluate the design to see how a modified plan could limit the impacts.

An alternative plan has been designed that includes the outer two islands and moves the bus stop from the west side of Fayerweather Street to the east side. This alternative plan reduces the number of parking spaces impacted. If the decision from the community is to move forward with this alternative design, the City will need to coordinate moving the bus stop with the MBTA.

Attached you will find a copy of the original design and the alternative design with information about each proposal. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have. We would appreciate your comments by April 19, 1999. Once we have received your comments, we will send out the two options to the broader community and set up another meeting for residents and business owners to decide how to proceed in improving safety on Huron Avenue.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me at 349-4655 or kwatkins@ci.cambridge.ma.us.

Sincerely,

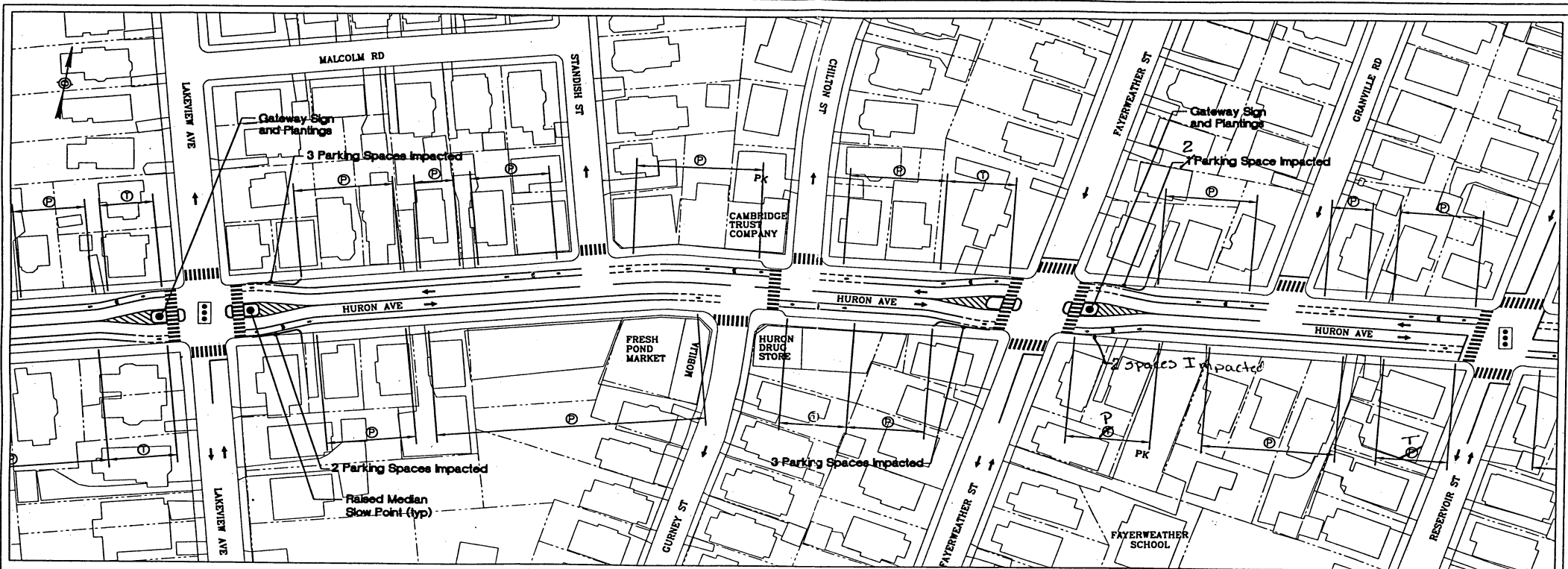
Katherine Watkins, P.E.
Traffic Calming Project Manager

ORIGINAL
PLAN

Median Slow Points / Pedestrian Refuge Islands

(These can be combined with curb extensions and marking the bike lanes.)

- Provide an opportunity for landscaping and a "Welcome to Huron Village" sign.
- Send a message to drivers to be alert for pedestrians in this dense area.
- Reduce speeds of vehicles as they enter the village.
- Allow pedestrians to cross half of the street at a time, stopping in the refuge before crossing the other half of the street.
- Emphasize crosswalk to drivers and pedestrians.
- Require some parking removal.



Legend

- ⊙ Parking Allowed
- ⊙ MBTA Bus Stop
- ⊙ Existing Traffic Signal
- ↑ Traffic Flow
- Bike Lane
- ≡ Crosswalk

- Improves 4 crosswalks.
- Provides 4 islands for landscaping.
- Reduces speeds; more than the Alternative Plan.
- Eliminates 12 parking spaces, 8 between Lakeview and Fayerweather, 4 east of Fayerweather.

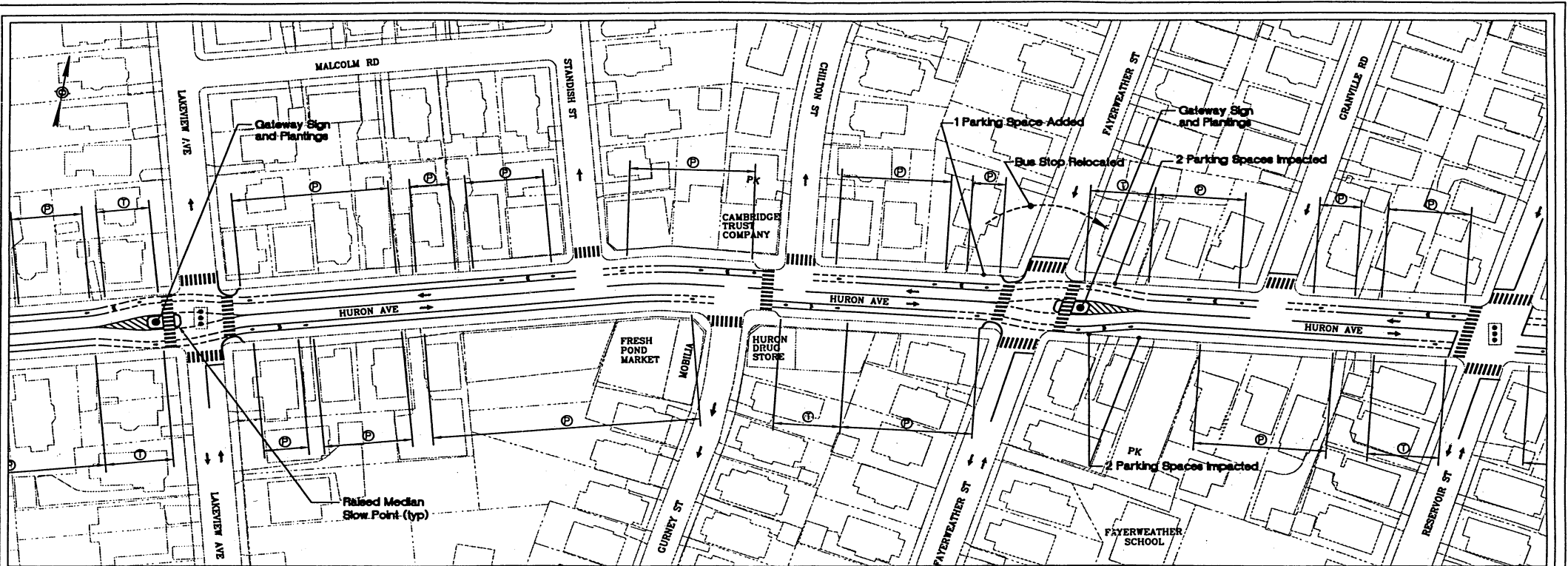
Huron Avenue Corridor Proposed Traffic Calming

January, 1999

0 40 80 200
SCALE IN FEET

Rev. 3/99 KFW

ALTERNATIVE PLAN



Legend

- ⊙ Parking Allowed
- Ⓢ MBTA Bus Stop
- Ⓢ Existing Traffic Signal
- ↑ Traffic Flow
- Bike Lane

≡ Crosswalk

- Improves 2 crosswalks.
- Provides 2 islands for landscaping.
- Reduces speeds; less than the Original Plan.
- Eliminates 3 parking spaces, adds 1 between Lakeview and Fayerweather, removes 4 east of Fayerweather.

Huron Avenue Corridor Proposed Traffic Calming

March, 1999



4.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

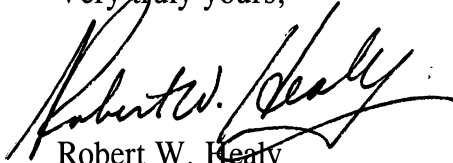
RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

April 26, 1999

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 99-71, regarding a report on the possibility of placing a warning sign in the vicinity of Huron Village, received from Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #4

3215 Cal. 4

Relative to AR #99-71, regarding
a report on the possibility of
placing a warning sign in the vicinity
of Huron Village.

In City Council April 26, 1999

CHARTER RIGHT
BY E. Tooney

5/3/99

PLACED ON FILE