

RECEIVED BY August 1, 1986
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Cambridge City Council
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

CAMBRIDGE MA.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I was astonished and dismayed recently to find concrete sidewalks being removed from Harvard St. in my neighborhood and replaced with very rough and bumpy brick pavements, with many projections over which one can stumble and fall.

Many of you have expressed concerns for senior citizens at various times. Where was your concern when you made the decision to remove concrete sidewalks on which one can walk and replace them with hazardous brick pavements on which one cannot walk. Probably senior citizens use the sidewalks as much as or more than other persons since they often don't own automobiles or can't drive. I personally have always walked in the road on the side streets which had dangerous brick pavements. Now I am relegated to walking in the road on Harvard St., which I consider to be very unsafe because of the fast two-way traffic.

The brick pavements probably are also difficult and/or dangerous for others such as: people in wheelchairs; people with arthritis, bad backs and bad feet; and people who are wheeling baby carriages. In addition, one becomes more quickly fatigued when walking on bricks. I recently walked from Lee St. to Harvard Square on the brick sidewalks of Harvard St. It was not a pleasant walk and I think the city Council members should make this walk before any further decisions are made to remove concrete sidewalks.

I was appalled at the waste of taxpayers' money. The money might better have been spent for leveling concrete sidewalks which have become hazardous.

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Although brick sidewalks may be historic, quaint and aesthetic to some, safety should have been a prime concern. As for the aesthetics, please note that weeds are growing prolifically in the cracks between the bricks of the older pavements and will soon develop in the cracks of the newly laid ones.. No one ever does anything about that problem and the result is anything but aesthetic.

I am not certain that the current bricklaying is being done as well as it might be and I suggest that you have the city engineer examine the recently laid brick sidewalks.

Very truly yours,



LaVonne E. Davidson (Miss) 68 years old
287 Harvard St., Unit 19
Cambridge, MA 02139
547-9859

CC Mr. Robert Healy, Cambridge City Manager
Chief Engineer, Department of Public Works

1.

S-498

Comm. from LaVonne E. Davidson, 287 Harvard St., expressing concern over the removal of concrete sidewalks in her neighborhood & substitution of brick sidewalks, which she feels are more treacherous.

In City Council,

September 8, 1986

Placed on File
Copy to City Manager

Copy sent to the City Manager 9/10/86 mdr