



5

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Traffic, Parking and Transportation
238 Broadway
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Susan E. Clippinger
Director

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

To: Robert Healy, City Manager
From: Susan E. Clippinger, Traffic Director *SC*
Date: January 23, 2001
Re: Council Order September 11, 2000 (00-70) /report of traffic study on Windsor St.

On January 17, 2001, The Traffic Engineering Division conducted a site investigation on Windsor Street from Cambridge Street to the city line. Below you will find the Division's evaluation on the existing conditions and recommendations to improve the overall operation and safety of Windsor Street.

Current Conditions

Windsor Street is 28-feet wide with parking on the west side and no parking on the east-side. The existing parking is located on the commercial side of the street and is unrestricted. The parking condition allows for vehicles to park without a time limit. The no parking side of Windsor Street runs along the Roosevelt Towers Housing Development. The traffic pattern is for two-way traffic.

Evaluation of Current Conditions

The current 8-foot parking lane and two 10-foot travel lanes are adequate for two-way traffic to operate safely on Windsor Street. It was observed during the investigation, that Windsor Street is being used greatly by cut-thru traffic accessing the Boynton Yards Industrial Park in Somerville. The existing narrow 10-foot travel lanes reduce speeds.

Most of the businesses in this Industrial Park contain large fleets of commercial vehicles (RCN, DHL, Bell Atlantic, and Gental Giant Moving). Windsor Street is the preferred route for these commercial vehicles over Willow, Harding and Hunting Streets because Windsor Street causes less impact on the residents. The Windsor Street commercial property and housing development are constructed in brick, and as a result, noise and vibration is less than they would be on the small residential wood framed construction on Willow, Harding and Hunting Streets.

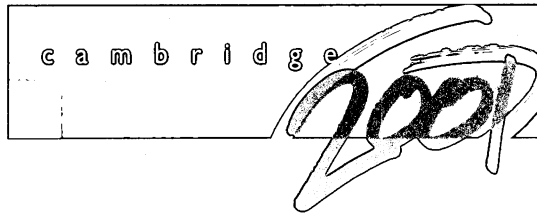
Recommendations

With the high volume of vehicles using Windsor Street to access the Boynton Yards area, it has caused some lengthy vehicle queue and some heavy vehicle turning movement (at Cambridge and Windsor Streets) at both morning and late afternoon peak hours. Scheduled for the summer of 2001, city staff will paint a 75-foot long double yellow centerline on Windsor Street at the approach to Cambridge Street. The yellow centerline will keep right vehicles exiting Windsor Street and allow for an adequate lane width for entering Windsor Street. This will improve the operation of the intersection of Cambridge Street and Windsor Street.

The existing 12" parallel line crosswalks are not adequate for the heavy turning vehicles at the intersection. Also scheduled for summer of 2001, city staff will be upgrading all three crosswalks to the more visible 24" wide international/zebra type crosswalks.

During the site investigation, it was observed that vehicles were parking on the east-side of the street, while running into the housing development. This illegal parking caused a back up on the street and as a result decreased the safe operation of Windsor Street. To reduce this problem, the existing "No Parking" signs posted on the east side of Windsor Street are scheduled to be replaced with the more enforceable "No Stopping" signs.

The current operation of Windsor Street functions in a safe manner, with no report of motor vehicle or pedestrian accidents over the past two years. The Department believes that Windsor Street should remain a two-way street with parking on the west side. When implemented this summer, the recommendations mentioned above should improve the current conditions.



5.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

January 29, 2001

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-70, regarding a report on conducting a traffic study on Windsor Street between Cambridge Street and the Somerville line, received from Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment



355

Consent Agenda #5

Awaiting Report Item Number

00-70, regarding a report on
conducting a traffic study on
Windsor Street between
Cambridge Street and the
Somerville line.

In City Council January 29, 2001

PLACED ON FILE