

the following suggestions for the safety points: *stop for red lights, walk with the light; yield to pedestrians.*

Ms. Elaine Cox, former member of the Pedestrian Committee, stated that people know that they have to stop for red lights so why does this need to be emphasized. Enforcement needs to be done. The brochure will notify people that increased enforcement will be done on the four points. Ms. Cox suggested that enforcement on running red lights be included. Ms. Seiderman suggested the text should read *Don't Run Red Lights*. Vice Mayor Davis stated that the details in the submitted text should be eliminated from the brochure.

Vice Mayor Davis stated that she like the graphics on the example from the Police Department (**ATTACHMENT B**). The four points need to be printed and numbered on the front of the brochure under the logo. Mr. Burckhardt suggested that there should be a graphic of a bike hitting a car door. Ms. Seiderman stated that this particular graphic might have a negative reaction. A discussion ensued about black and white versus colored graphics on the brochure.

Commissioner Watson stated that the yield graphic should contain language for both motorists and pedestrians. He felt the colors red and yellow should be used. He also suggested rather than a brochure a card type of notice be used that could be placed on cars.

Vice Mayor Davis suggested that the Police Commissioner prepare a message for the card that stated that Cambridge is increasing enforcement on these four safety points and that the city is requesting assistance and cooperation from pedestrians, motorist and bicyclist.

Ms. Cox stated that the 4 Safety Points should be printed in other languages. Mr. Walker stated that the Health Alliance would translate; however the translated version may be in a different format.

Commissioner Watson suggested that the traffic light logo should contain text that states *same road same rules*. He would stress the damage done rather than the amount of the fine. Consistent enforcement works, he said. Ms. Anders stated that additional information might effect a change in the behavior. Ms. Seiderman stated that public support is high for enforcement.

Councillor Toomey informed the committee about pedestrian and bicyclists safety bills pending before the legislature (**ATTACHMENT C**).

The committee now focused on the distribution of the 4 Safety Points card. Ms. Seiderman stated that the information would be on the Web site and would be distributed by the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department with the Parking Permits, the Health Alliance, Police and School Departments.

Councillor Toomey commented that kids on bicyclists need more education. They ride their bikes around corners too quickly and could be in danger. The Police Department tries to give education classes in the spring, but needs the cooperation of the School Department, stated Commissioner Watson. Sergeant Murphy stated that the focus at the schools has been on MCAS.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed:

- Card type to be used;
- Police Department logo would be used;
- Green color may be eliminated;
- Text of 4 Safety Points be listed on the front of the card;
- Police Commissioner's message, information on enforcement, request for assistance and cooperation and rules of the road text be on the back of the card.

Ms. Cox suggested bring the safety points home by highlighting recent incidents such as incident that occurred on Memorial Drive. The safety points and the enforcement will prevent a future tragedy.

Commissioner Watson informed the committee that the Police Department would work on the logo graphics and his message for the reverse side of the card.

Vice Mayor Davis requested Community Development Department to work on designing the text for the front and will receive the text for the reverse side from the Police Department and add the additional information.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 13, 2003 at 1:00 p.m.

Vice Mayor Davis thanked all attendees.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

For the Committee,



Vice Mayor Henrietta Davis, Chair

When driving and cycling--

Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. When you have a green light, wait for pedestrians to cross before turning right or left.

Don't run red lights. Slow down at intersections and be ready to stop. People who run red lights cause crashes.

When you're walking--

Use the crosswalks. Cross with the light. Start crossing when the white "walk" signal is on. Blinking "don't walk" is to give you time to finish crossing before the light changes.

Drivers and passengers--

Look for bikes before opening your car door.

INSIDE TEXT:

Stop for red lights.

Slow down at intersections and be ready to stop when the signal turns yellow.
If the light has been green for a while, you should expect to stop.

Red-light running causes 260,000 crashes and 750 deaths every year.

The penalty for red-light running is XXXXXXXXX.

*When you have a green light, wait for pedestrians to cross before turning right or left.
Where there's no traffic light, stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.*

Pedestrians crossing with the light have the right of way. Cyclists going straight also have the right of way over turning vehicles.

By law, when there is no traffic signal, drivers and cyclists must yield to a pedestrian who is in a marked crosswalk.

When you are driving and a car stops at a crosswalk, assume it is for a pedestrian and do not pass until you are absolutely sure no one is crossing. It is illegal and very dangerous to pass a car that has stopped for a pedestrian.

Failure to yield to pedestrians can cost you \$100.

Use the crosswalks. When you cross at the corner, or anywhere there is a marked crosswalk, you are where drivers and cyclists are expecting you.

Obey traffic signals. Start crossing when the white “walk” signal is on. Blinking “don’t walk” is to give you time to finish crossing before the light changes. If you *start* crossing on the blinking “don’t walk” you may run out of time before you’re safely across the street.

The City of Cambridge has worked to make the time that pedestrians have to wait to cross the street as short as possible. Be safe, courteous, and legal: cross when it’s your turn.

Look for cyclists before opening your car door.

The law says that no one should open a car door on the traffic side of a vehicle unless it is safe to do so. You need to look for bicycles as well as for cars. If you open your door and a cyclist or car hits it, you are the one at fault.

Many people rely on their ears instead of actually looking. This doesn’t work for bicycles—or for hybrid cars. Get in the habit of looking every time.



ATTACHMENT C

Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Bills
Heard April 1st 2003

H 1342 - Rep. Wolf's Bill*Relative to Safety at Pedestrian Crosswalks*Currently in 3rd Reading (Question on Engrossment)**H 1553 - Rep. Paulsen's Bill***Bicyclist's Bill of Rights*

Currently HELD by the Committee (questions remain)

- Bill previously reported Favorably by the Transportation Committee
- Referred to House Ways & Means - no further action

H 3394 - Rep. Petruccelli's Bill

H 1732 Attached

*Relative to Failing to Stop for a Pedestrian at Non-Signalized Intersection*Currently in 2nd Reading

- Increases the fine from \$100 to \$200 and a maximum of \$500
- Bill previously reported Favorably by the Transportation Committee
- Engrossed by the House, sent to Senate 3rd Reading - no further action

H 1917 - Rep. Toomey's Bill*Speed Limits in Cities and Towns*Currently in 3rd Reading (Question on Engrossment)

- Bill previously reported Favorably by the committee and passed to be engrossed by the House
- Passed to be engrossed by the Senate - no further action

H 1920 - Rep. Toomey's Bill*Requiring Safety Helmets for Persons Using Skates, Skateboards, and Certain Vehicles for Children Under Sixteen*

Bill Reported Favorably by the Committee

(House Clerk currently processing the paperwork)

- Requires helmets for riding a bike, in-line skating, riding scooters, skateboarding, or for using any other manually propelled wheeled vehicle

Regulating Motorized ScootersHeard April 29th

H 1544 - Rep Fennell

H 2495 - Rep. Garry

S 1393 - Sen. Tolman

Bills HELD by the Committee (questions remain)

*No Action
on Segways
discussing local
option*

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City of Cambridge

PUBLIC SAFETY

In City Council September 8, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS*Vice Mayor Henrietta Davis, Chair**Councillor David P Maher**Councillor Timothy J. Toomey*

The Public Safety Committee held a public meeting on Wednesday, August 6, 2003 at eleven o'clock and ten minutes a.m. in the Sullivan Chamber.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions on a pedestrian, bicyclist and motorists safety campaign.

Present at the meeting was Vice Mayor Davis, Chair of the Committee, Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Ronnie Watson, Police Commissioner, Sergeant Kathleen Murphy, Bicycle Patrol, Sara Seiderman, Environmental and Transportation Planning, Community Development Department (CDD), Rosalie Anders, Project Coordinator for the Environmental and Transportation Division, CDD, Stephanie Anderberg, Environmental and Transportation Planner, CDD, Jeff Walker, Cambridge Health Alliance and Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk. Also present was John Burckardt, 1429 Cambridge Street, member of the Bicycle Committee and Elaine Cox, former member of the Pedestrian Committee.

Vice Mayor Davis opened the meeting and stated the purpose.

Vice Mayor Davis asked the city staff to give a report.

Ms. Anders distributed three design logos and text changes for the Points 4 Safety brochure from the previous meeting (**ATTACHMENT A**). The design logos were eliminated. Input on the text and the logo from the Police Department was requested from the attendees.

Vice Mayor Davis requested that the 4 Safety Points be more simplified. The four points are:

- Stop for red lights;
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks;
- Cross with the light, use crosswalks; and
- Look for bikes before opening car doors.

These points need to be emphasized.

Commissioner Watson stated that bicyclists and motorists must yield to pedestrians whether the traffic light is red or green. Ms. Seiderman stated that motorists think that if they have a green light they do not have to yield. Pedestrians feel that they have the right-of-way in the crosswalks. Vice Mayor Davis stated that the brochure needed to address issues for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. Ms. Seiderman made

Committee Report #2

A communication was received from Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, transmitting a report from Vice Mayor Henrietta Davis, Chair of the Public Safety Committee, for a meeting held on August 6, 2003 to continue discussions on a pedestrian bicyclist and motorists safety campaign.

In City Council September 8, 2003

**REPORT ACCEPTED
PLACED ON FILE**