

North Cambridge Stabilization Committee

22 October 1987

George Teso
Director, Traffic Department
City of Cambridge
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Teso:

I am writing on behalf of the North Cambridge Stabilization Committee to invite you to speak to us about the effect of development on traffic and parking in North Cambridge. We are interested both in the effects you foresee and in the City's approach to evaluating those effects and considering them in the development and planning process. We would like to invite you and Dick Easler of the Community Development Department to speak about these issues at our regular meeting on Wednesday, November 18 at 7:30 P.M. at the Gately Shelter in North Cambridge if that time is convenient for you.

The Stabilization Committee is a neighborhood group open to all residents of North Cambridge, which meets twice a month to review and comment on development proposals, to disburse a budget of \$250,000/year allocated by the City to a variety of neighborhood stabilization activities, and to address other issues of concern to the neighborhood. As we have considered individual development proposals over the past several years we have become increasingly concerned that the cumulative effects of development on traffic and parking in North Cambridge -- particularly on neighborhood streets -- are likely to be tremendous. Yet we have heard little from the City regarding predictions of impact or any steps to be taken to make that impact more bearable for the neighbors of development.

Specific questions that we would ask you to address include:

The Impact of Development on Traffic

- Does the City have an overall traffic and parking plan? Does it have a plan for North Cambridge?
- How does the City consider traffic impact in the development process? Does the City have a policy on what traffic impacts are acceptable or allowable in new development?
- More specifically, does the Traffic Department study all development proposals for traffic impact? Does it study individual projects only, or does it ever study the cumulative effects of development proposals within certain areas?

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- When the Traffic Department does a study, what recommendations does the Traffic Department make on the basis of its findings, and to whom? What controls, if any, does the Traffic Department have on development in the city?

Specific North Cambridge Issues

- What information does the Traffic Department have about traffic in the Trolley Square area? In particular, what are current traffic counts, what are the expected cumulative effects of future development, and what are the Department's plans for addressing those effects?
- What about roads that are already clogged? By the Traffic Department's measures, are there roads which have reached capacity? Does the Traffic Department do traffic counts on heavily used roads? On neighborhood streets which are increasingly used as bypasses?
- What does the Traffic Department expect to be the traffic impact of the Alewife Development on Alewife Brook Parkway? On neighborhood streets? The neighborhood has identified a number of unanswered questions about the developer's traffic study in previous letters, including inconsistencies in the baseline numbers for future years, and we would like to hear your understanding.
- What is the Department's role in developing and enforcing trucking restrictions on neighborhood streets (e.g., Cameron Ave.)?

We will be calling you soon to follow up on this request and to see whether the date we suggest is convenient for you. We will look forward to the chance to talk to you in person about these critical issues. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Olivia Golden ⁷¹

Olivia Golden, Chair
North Cambridge Stabilization Committee
200 Sherman Street, #1
Cambridge, MA 02140
354-7932

cc: Cambridge City Council
Dick Easler, CCDD
Michael Rosenberg, CCDD
Robert Healy, City Manager
Lauren Preston, Traffic Dept.
Planning Board
Board of Zoning Appeals

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Dick Easler
Traffic Planner
Community Development Department
City of Cambridge
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

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Olivia Golden PR

Olivia Golden, Chair
North Cambridge Stabilization Committee
200 Sherman Street, #1
Cambridge, MA 02140
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cc: Cambridge City Council
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Planning Board
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S-633

Comm. from Olivia Golden, Chair, North Cambridge Stabilization Committee, transmitting a copy of her letter to the Traffic & Parking Director & Traffic Planner, inviting them to speak before the Committee Re: effect of development on traffic & parking in North Cambridge.

In City Council,

November 2, 1987

Placed on F.6

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