



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

SUSAN B. SCHLESINGER,
Assistant City Manager for
Community Development

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager
FROM: Susan B. Schlesinger, Assit. City Manager for *SBS*
Community Development
DATE: June 6, 1995
SUBJECT: City Council Order #16, dated August 4, 1994

In response to City Council Order #16, dated August 4, 1994, requesting me to immediately seek commitments and funding from the MBTA and/or any other State or Federal Agencies for implementing the recommendations contained in the North Cambridge Railroad Safety Study Report, I am pleased to report that are making progress. First, the City has been successful in obtaining a commitment of \$5,000,000 in Federal and State funds for the construction of these grade separated pedestrian crossings. The project has been approved by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and is included in the FY 95/97 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Boston Region. These funds will be available for construction to start in Federal FY 97 which begins October 1, 1996. Second, the city has recently requested that we be able to use up to \$500,000 of this TIP money for the design of these improvements during FY 96. Both the MBTA and MAPC have indicated that they will support this request.

Moreover, the City budget for next fiscal year contains two important items for implementation of the project; funding for a Transportation Improvement Program Coordinator and \$50,000 to begin preliminary design work. The TIP Coordinator will coordinate the \$24 million of Federal transportation funds that our allocated for Cambridge projects over the next three years, to make sure that projects such as this one move ahead smoothly and meet deadlines.

The \$50,000 in city funds will be used to begin the design process. This consultant effort is needed at this time to make design decisions and finalize the actual project to be implemented. The work will consist of assembling existing mapping of the area and conducting any required field survey to prepare a base map of the corridor. Enough design work will then be undertaken to define the actual project, including right-of-way needs, and prepare a more detailed cost estimate of the project to be implemented. In addition to the actual railroad crossings, the project will also address the possibility of constructing a walkway/bikeway along the railroad the railroad corridor.

In addition, the MBTA has agreed in principle to extend the route of the #83 (Rindge Ave.) bus to the Fresh Pond Shopping Center as soon as construction of the new bridge is complete, anticipated by the end of the year.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

June 19, 1995

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report #3 relative to seeking commitments and funding from the MBTA and/or other State or Federal agencies for implementing proposals from the North Cambridge Railroad Safety Study, please find attached a report from Susan Schlesinger, Assistant City Manager for Community Development.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Attachment

Consent Agenda # 1 *S-207*
Response to Awaiting Report Item Number
Three, regarding seeking commitments and
funding from the MBTA and/or other State
or Federal agencies for implementing
proposals from the North Cambridge Railroad
Safety Study.

*for original order
see 1994 Sundries
367.*

In City Council,

June 19, 1995

Placed on file