

## CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139  
Tel. 876-6800

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
JOHN H. CORCORAN  
City Manager

September 29, 1972

I believe I would be remiss in my duty to the Citizens of Cambridge if I did not take this opportunity to call to your attention the present inequitable distribution of State funds to the City of Cambridge. I trust that in your study of the MBTA fiscal setup you will consider this inequity and in your recommendations to Governor Francis W. Sargent and the 1973 Legislature you will offer some hope for financial relief to Cambridge taxpayers.

In 1972 Cambridge was one of the relatively few communities which received fewer dollars from the State than it was called upon to pay to the Commonwealth. Most communities received more State funds than they in turn had to pay the State.

Our share of the MBTA deficit in 1972 was \$3,839,900 which was included in the \$4,144,000 difference between what Cambridge received in State funds and the State bills we must meet.

If all communities shared and shared alike in State revenue Cambridge would have no cause to complain, but an examination of the Cherry Sheet allocations of State Receipts and State Charges for numerous communities will prove to you that the deficit for Cambridge in 1972 is \$4,144,000 while most communities had a surplus which they could use to offer some financial relief to their property owners.

Your examination of the facts will also disclose that the principal reason for the inequity is the proportionally larger share of the MBTA deficit which Cambridge is called upon to meet annually, for the reasons which have been revealed by one study group after another without adequate relief being offered to the taxpayers of this City.

The problem is not one of having Cambridge pay for the MBTA transportation available to its citizens. Rather Cambridge taxpayers have to help finance transportation for suburbanites many of whom make their living in this City.

To: Special MBTA Recess Commission  
Member (cont.)

September 29, 1972

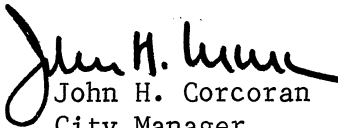
It is not fair to argue that communities not served by the MBTA should be free of any obligation to support the transportation system for the Boston metropolitan area which is the economic heart of this Commonwealth. The benefits of this transportation system are state-wide.

Nor is it justified by economic facts to argue that each individual area should be responsible for its own immediate needs. Cambridge then could well take the position that its taxpayers should not have to pay for the State Police upon which so many communities depend for their principal source of security and citizen protection. Also if that argument were valid Cambridge could very well take the position that it should not have to pay for the highways which are the lifeblood for so many cities and towns, including industrial communities in this State.

The problem of placing the MBTA on a sound fiscal basis is not an easy one. We in Cambridge recognize this. But we also believe that too few persons in responsible governmental positions realize what an unfair burden the present inequitable distribution of State funds and charges has placed upon the people of Cambridge.

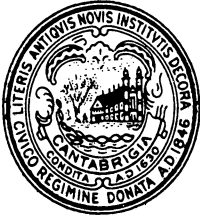
We are hoping you will examine this situation and that the members of Your Honorable Commission offer some relief to this City in your recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John H. Corcoran  
City Manager

JHC/b

cc: Alan A. Altshuler  
Henry S. Lodge  
Senator Edward L. Burge  
Senator Joseph Walsh  
Senator William Saltonstall  
Thomas W. McGee  
Representative Raymond F. Rourke  
Representative Lincoln P. Cole Jr  
Mayor Kevin H. White  
Mayor George R. McCarthy  
Francis X. Meaney  
George Bailey  
Professor John F. Collins  
Marcia Molay  
Charles Turner



## CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
JOHN H. CORCORAN  
City Manager

October 2, 1972

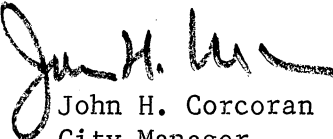
To the Honorable, the City Council:

As you know I have frequently pointed out the inequitable distribution of State revenues to Cambridge which has resulted in this City being one of the few communities in the Commonwealth to receive less in State funds than it is required to pay the State annually. While other communities have a State surplus to help ease the local tax burden, Cambridge must use its own taxpayers funds to help meet the State deficit.

I see some measure of hope in the Governor's recently appointed MBTA Special Recess Commission which is scheduled to report by December 1st recommendations to place the MBTA on a sound fiscal base.

Attached is a letter which I sent to each member of the Special Recess Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John H. Corcoran  
City Manager

JHC/b

Agenda #2

373

Transmitting communication from City  
Manager relative to latter sent to the  
members of the MBTA Special Recess  
commission.

In City Council

October 2, 1972

*Placed on File*