



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

BETH RUBENSTEIN
Acting Assistant City
Manager for Community
Development

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From: ^{BR} Beth Rubenstein, Acting Assistant City Manager for Community Development
Susan Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation

Date: April 27, 1999

Subject: Response to Council Order #002 dated 4/12/99
Report on the Connection between the Minuteman Bikeway to the Charles River through Watertown

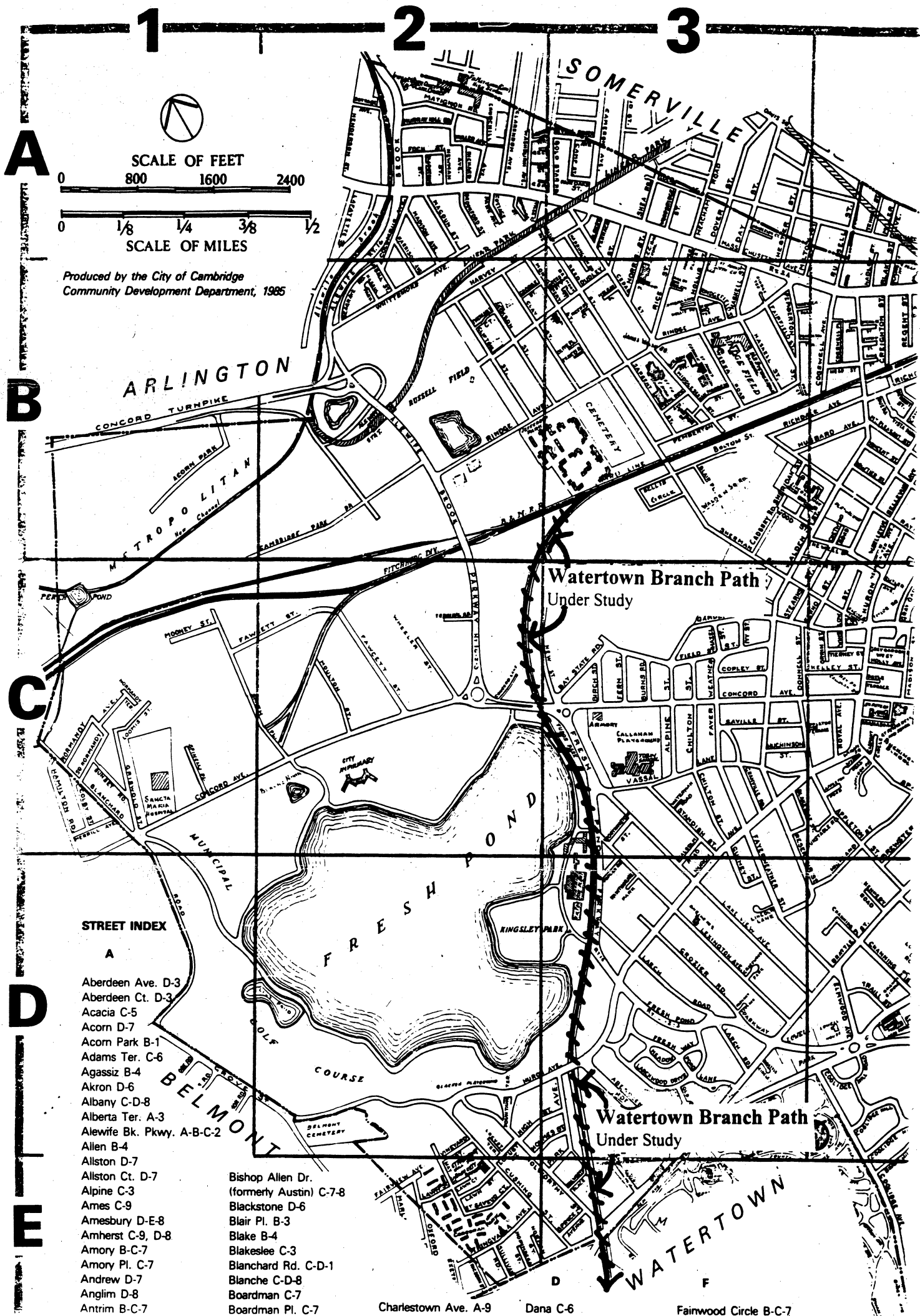
In response to the above referenced order I report the following:

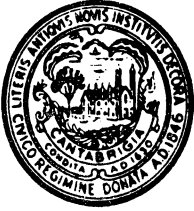
The Watertown Branch rail corridor has been identified as the most feasible off-road connection for cyclists and pedestrians between the Minuteman Bikeway and the Charles River. In the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, \$1,200,000 was allocated to the state for a Minuteman Bikeway to Charles River connector.

In response to requests from the City of Cambridge, Town of Watertown and bicycle advocates, the State's Executive Office of Transportation and Construction, along with the MassHighway Department, have developed a study scope for the project. The scope includes: 1) a survey, 2) a review of path connections, 3) preliminary engineering, and 4) right of way requirements for a mixed-use pathway running alongside the infrequently used branch rail line. Identification of safety requirements to separate the rail from cyclists and pedestrians is also included. The study was intended to be complete before July 15, 1999 which is the expiration date of an agreement with Guilford Industries, the owner of the line, under which Guilford agreed to refrain from selling right of way in certain portions of the line prior to July 15, 1999.

Because of the short time frame to complete the proposed study, the State has revised the scope to include only the elements necessary to identify right of way needs for the project. EOTC has begun this abbreviated study and indicated it would be complete by the end of April 1999. Upon its completion, the City of Cambridge will work with EOTC to make this important project a state priority.

Watertown Branch Path





CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

May 3, 1999

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 99-75, regarding a report on the connection between the Minuteman Bikeway to the Charles River through Watertown being in jeopardy because of State delays, received from Acting Assistant City Manager for Community Development Beth Rubenstein and Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #1

3/25

Relative to AW Rpt99-75 relative
to a report on the connection between
the Minuteman Bikeway to the
Charles River through Watertown
being in jeopardy because of
State delays.

In City Council May 3, 1999

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