



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager
June 12, 2000

Senate President Thomas Birmingham
Speaker of the House Thomas Finneran
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Senate President Birmingham and Speaker Finneran:

RE: H2583 An act to amend the speed limit inside thickly settled or business districts

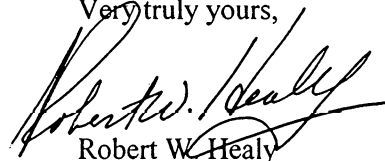
In April of 1999, the City of Cambridge communicated to the legislature its strong support of the above legislation. I would like to go on record again in support of the legislation, which addresses one of the most important public safety issues we face.

We believe that 25 miles an hour is a safer and more appropriate speed limit than 30 miles an hour in thickly settled districts. Speeding is a major public safety issue and Cambridge residents frequently express concerns about speeding on the streets where they live. There are 25 states that have already set the speed limit for thickly settled areas at 25 MPH or less and ten states where the state has given this decision to the municipalities. On many of our streets, 30 MPH is too fast for comfort or neighborhood safety. These excess speeds are an especially serious problem for children. More than half – 55% -- of all pedestrian deaths from motor vehicles occur on neighborhood streets.

When vehicles travel at 30 MPH, 45% of the people struck die; when vehicles travel at 20 MPH, the death rate is 5%. The severity of injuries to those who survive such a collision is proportional to the fatality rate.

I urge you to make passage of this legislation a priority.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

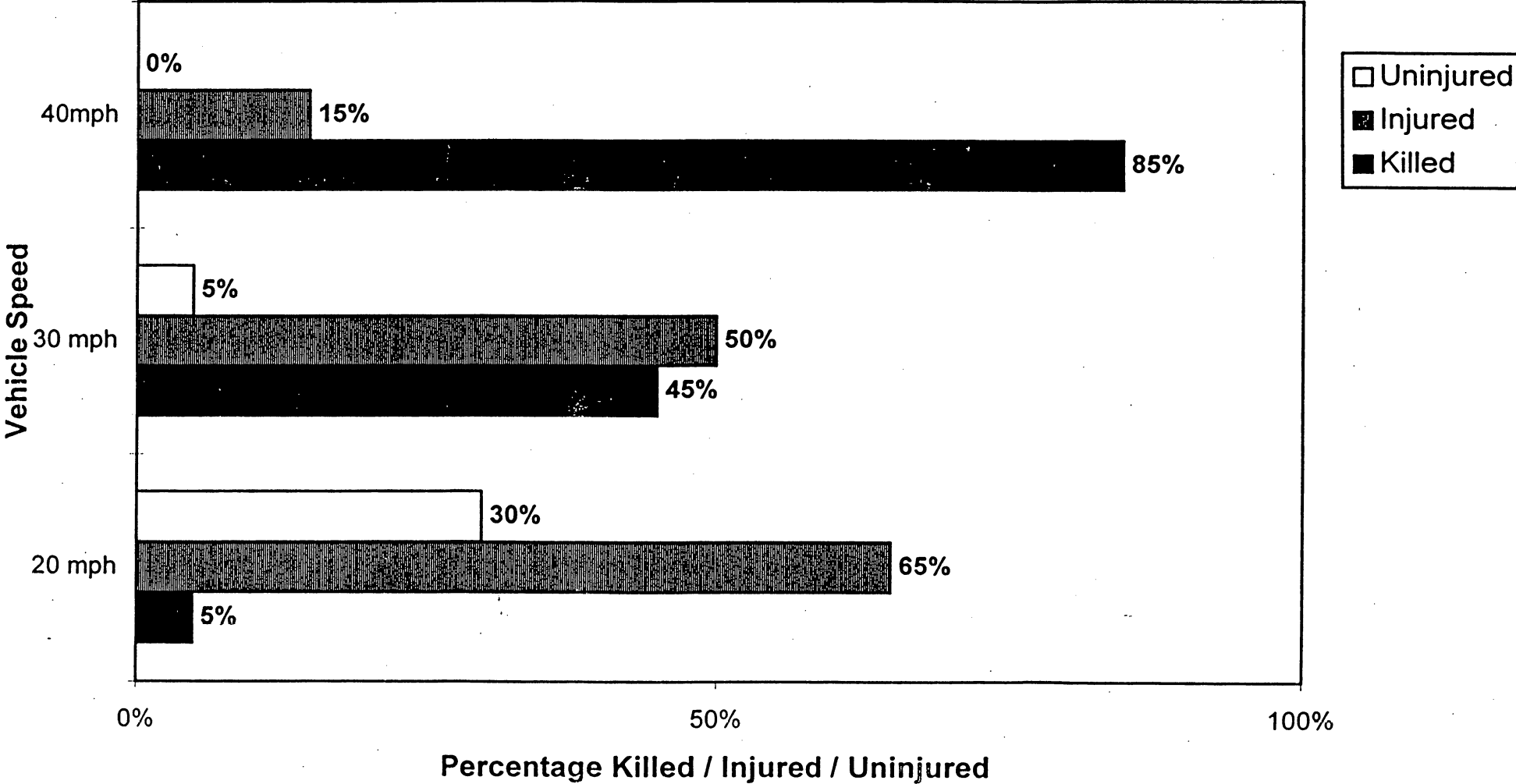
RWH/mec
Attachment

Cc: Cambridge City Council
 Senator Jajuga
 Representative Barrios
 Representative Toomey
 Representative Wolf



2000 Things 2 Do in 2000

Pedestrian Injuries / Fatalities in Crashes by Vehicle Speed



Source: Devon County Council Engineering and Planning Traffic Calming Guidelines, U.K., 1991, p27.



City of Cambridge

O-18.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 5, 2000

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DECKER
MAYOR GALLUCCIO
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to transmit a letter urging the state legislature to permit 25 miles per hour on city streets if the city or town so chooses in the interest of safety.

In City Council June 5, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

O-18.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 5, 2000

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to transmit a letter urging the state legislature to permit 25 miles per hour on city streets if the city or town so chooses in the interest of safety.

121 CM

Order #18

City Manager to transmit a letter urging the state legislature to permit 25 miles per hour on city streets.

Councillor Davis

In City Council June 5, 2000

ORDER ADOPTED