



**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE**  
**Traffic, Parking and Transportation**  
57 Inman Street,  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Susan E. Clippinger  
Director

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Administration     | 349-4700 |
| Parking Violations | 349-4705 |
| Resident Parking   | 349-4701 |

RECEIVED  
1999 MAY 21 AM 8:00  
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

May 18, 1999

TO: Robert Healy, City Manager

FROM: Susan E. Clippinger, Director 

SUBJECT: Council Order #23 dated April 12, 1999

RE: Report on an evaluation and plan for future use of stanchions in crosswalks

Over the past several years, the Department has experimented with different types of warning devices at unsignalized crosswalks with varying degrees of success.

The first stanchions were highly reflective 1'x3' high panels set on the roadway. They were easy to place and repair when hit. The problem was we lost two to three each month. We currently have installed traffic barrels with yield to pedestrian signs at seven locations including Huron Ave. at Chilton St. and at the golf course; Concord Ave. at Fern and at Fayerweather St. and Mass. Ave. at Pearl Street and at Blanche, and Broadway at Solomon Center. We have also installed flexible stanchions posts with "crosswalk" and "Yield" signs on Concord Ave. at Madison St. These posts withstand repeated impacts by vehicles but not snow plows.

We use the barrels where the street is wide enough and have experimented with stanchions on the narrower streets.

Last fall the Department installed the stanchions at six locations: Concord Ave. at Madison; Concord Ave. at Fayerweather; Mass. Ave. at Bow St.; Sherman St. at Cadbury; Mass. at Remington and Walden at Richdale. The locations lasted varying lengths of time. We learned that they could not be successfully maintained on one-way streets and where the travel lanes were narrow. Sherman at Cadbury was destroyed twice before the installation crew could even leave the area. Concord at Madison lasted the longest. None of them survived this winter's snowplows. This spring, we reinstalled the stanchions on Concord Ave. at Madison. Also, this spring, the Department will initiate another technique using crosswalk flags. These are used in

the City of Kirkland, Washington. These will be installed at Huron and Chilton and Mass. Ave. at Pearl Street.

Amgen in Kendall Square has agreed to install a crosswalk lighting system, which alerts motorists that they are approaching an occupied crosswalk through a series of in-pavement warning lights located on each side of the crosswalk. The warning lights are triggered when a pedestrian enters the crosswalk..

We will continue to work with the Community Development Department, Police Department, Pedestrian Committee, neighborhoods and developers to try various methods to improve safety at crosswalks throughout the city. As new materials, designs and systems are developed we will evaluate and install those which are appropriate for the City of Cambridge



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
ROBERT W. HEALY  
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI  
Deputy City Manager

May 24, 1999

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 99-76, regarding a report on an evaluation and plan for future use of stanchions in crosswalks, received from Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

RWH/mec  
Attachment

Consent Agenda #6

386 S

Relative to a report on an evaluation  
and plan for future uses of stan-  
chions in crosswalks.

In City Council May 24, 1999

**PLACED ON FILE**