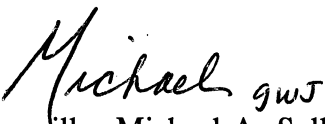


Councillor Sullivan asked about signs. Ms. Clippinger said that she prefers to know exactly what the problem is that is creating the request so that she can ensure that the sign requested will solve the problem. Sometimes there are better solution.

Councillor Sullivan stated that he hears about most of the traffic issues that he submits as council orders at public meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

For the Committee,


Councillor Michael A. Sullivan, Chair

Publicsafety.091996

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Councillor Sullivan stated that he hears most of the issues that became City Council orders at public meetings. He noted the importance of cross-department communication.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

For the Committee,



Councillor Michael A. Sullivan, Chair

Publicsafety.091996

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City of Cambridge

The Public Safety Committee held a public meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 1996, beginning at 10:15 am in the Community Development Conference Room, 57 Inman Street for the purpose of considering current and planned activities of the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department.

Present at the hearing were Michael A. Sullivan, Chair of the Committee, and City Clerk D. Margaret Drury. Also present were Susan Clippinger, Managing Director of Traffic Parking and Transportation, and Lauren Preston, Deputy Traffic Director.

Councillor Sullivan convened the hearing and explained the purpose.

The meeting began with a tour of the renovated office space of the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department.

Ms. Clippinger then distributed a document entitled "Department Plans and Programs" (attached). She directed attention to the last page entitled "The Future".

Councillor Sullivan asked about traffic calming. Ms. Clippinger said that traffic calming techniques are being employed by an increasing number of communities all across the country. Typically, where residents see them work, demand increases.

Councillor Sullivan said that over the last years, there has been a lot of signalization. Mr. Preston said that it has been mostly upgrading, rather than adding signals in new places.

Councillor Sullivan stated that a lot of flashers have been added. Ms. Clippinger said that many citizens first ask for a flasher and then call back asking for another type of light.

Ms. Clippinger stated that the idea behind traffic calming is to make changes that will change behaviors. The idea is not necessary to relocate traffic, because there is no one street that could bear the entire traffic load in Cambridge.

In response to a question from Councillor Sullivan. Ms. Clippinger said that the number one cause of pedestrian accidents is people, especially children, darting out from between cars. She observed, however, that one solution can bring another problem and cited the example of e.g. Berkshire Street, where parking was removed on one side after serious traffic accidents with children so that the kids can be seen by drivers. But that widens the street, so traffic goes faster.

Ms. Clippinger stated that Berkshire and York Streets are the sites of traffic calming projects. When they are finished residents will be very enthusiastic. She predicts that there will be more demand after residents see the results. Both Portland and Seattle have seven engineers doing just traffic calming because the citizen response was so enthusiastic.

Committee Report #3

1, 1, 5-478

A report for a meeting held on
September 17, 1996 for the purpose
of considering current and planned
activities of the Traffic, Parking
and Transportation Department.

In City Council September 30, 1996

Report Accepted

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