



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

SUSAN B. SCHLESINGER
Assistant City Manager for
Community Development

BETH RUBENSTEIN
Deputy Director for
Community Development

To: Robert W. Healy
City Manager

From: Susan B. Schlesinger ^{SBS}
Assistant City Manager for Community Development

Date: April 22, 1998

Re: Response to Council Order #19, March 23, 1998
Charles River Master Plan, MIT Front

The Charles River Master Plan meetings have been occurring since June 1997. This planning process encompasses the area of the Charles River from the Watertown Dam to the Museum of Science Dam. The main focus of this process has been to establish both a vision and a plan for the future of this historic river. The execution of this master plan is understood to take many years and as yet no funding sources have been identified.

City staff have attended both full committee meetings and subcommittee meetings since this process started last year. At these meetings city staff have advocated for alternative transportation facilities, slower vehicular traffic, and better pedestrian access to the river.

The goal of providing better pedestrian access to the river front is one of the priorities for the city and has been stressed by city staff and residents at meetings throughout the Charles River Master Plan process. The city has also made it clear that access to the river should be provided at strategic places to maximize safety for all people crossing the vehicular lanes.

In addition, the city recognizes the historic nature of the stretch of Memorial Drive adjacent to MIT and would like to maintain the character of this area. Several options have been proposed by the MDC's consultant, Goody Clancy Associates, for this stretch of Memorial Drive. These plans ranged from removing the median strip to removing the parking lane closest to the river.

To further these discussions, the city will sponsor an open community meeting on May 20th to discuss these options and other issues concerning this stretch of Memorial Drive. We will keep you informed as this process continues.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

April 27, 1998

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 12, regarding a report on the enhancement of the Charles River Basin plan, received from Assistant City Manager for Community Development Susan Schlesinger.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #14

Relative to a report on the
enhancement of the Charles River
Basin plan.

In City Council April 27, 1998

PLACED ON FILE