



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Robert W. Healy, City Manager  
From *George Teso*  
George Teso, Traffic Director

Date April 3, 1984

Reference

Subject City Council Order #6 of March 12, 1984 "Heavy Truck Traffic in Cambridge"

The truck traffic problem in the City of Cambridge is one that has been in existence for many years due primarily to the number of commercial facilities within the City and made more severe by construction of the Mass. Turnpike Extension into Boston, the moratorium on any more major highway construction in the area, the restriction of commercial vehicles on most of the MDC roads, the poor condition of our bridges and most recently the amount of construction now under way in the City.

These problems were identified by the Traffic Department many years ago and we started on a program to restrict as much heavy trucking through our City as possible while awaiting the State to complete their comprehensive study of all the trucking in the area and come up with a solution to alleviate this condition. They have not as yet made any recommendations. One possible solution in the area of dangerous cargoes was to keep them off the Mass. Turnpike Extension forcing them to use Route #128 and Route #93 to get to Revere or Everett.

While waiting for some help from the State the Traffic Department has been working with other City agencies in at least keeping heavy truck traffic on our major roads and off our residential streets. Our major problem in restricting heavy trucking from our streets is that the state law, explicitly states that to restrict heavy trucking on any public way we must provide a suitable alternate route within our community before they will issue a permit to us. Most of the time we cannot find a suitable route or feel it is not fair to transfer trucks from one street to another.

Although there are many state requirements that hamper us in our efforts we feel we have accomplished a lot as we have restricted heavy trucking on many of our streets.

I have listed these below:

| <u>STREET</u>        | <u>FROM</u>      | <u>TO</u>           | <u>HRS.</u>                               |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. Blanchard Rd.     | Concord Ave.     | Belmont Town Line   | 24                                        |
| 2. Bay St.           | Kinnaird St.     | Green St.           | 24                                        |
| 3. Clarendon Ave.    | Mass. Ave.       | Somerville Line     | 24                                        |
| 4. Columbus Ave.     | Mass. Ave.       | Kimball St.         | 24                                        |
| 5. Coolidge Ave.     | Mt. Auburn St.   | Watertown Line      | 24                                        |
| 6. Coolidge Hill Rd. | Eastern End      | Western End         | 24                                        |
| 7. Edmunds St.       | Mass. Ave.       | To End              | 24                                        |
| 8. Eighth St.        | Spring St.       | Cambridge St.       | 24                                        |
| 9. Fifth St.         | Charles St.      | Winter St.          | 24                                        |
| 10. Franklin St.     | Putnam Ave.      | Pleasant St.        | 24                                        |
| 11. Harrison Ave.    | Columbus Ave.    | Whittemore Ave.     | 24                                        |
| 12. Hurley St.       | Third St.        | Sixth St.           | 24                                        |
| 13. Green St.        | Sellers St.      | Putnam Ave.         | 24                                        |
| 14. Gore St.         | Lambert St.      | Third St.           | 24                                        |
| 15. Irving St.       | Scott St.        | Kirkland St.        | 24                                        |
| 16. Kimball St.      | Seagrave St.     | Whittemore Ave.     | 24                                        |
| 17. Madison St.      | Columbus Ave.    | Whittemore Ave.     | 24                                        |
| 18. Magoun St.       | Mass. Ave.       | Whittemore Ave.     | 24                                        |
| 19. Otis St.         | Third St.        | Fulkerson St.       | 24                                        |
| 20. Prospect St.     | Mass. Ave.       | Somerville Line     | 7 PM-7 AM weekdays<br>24 hrs. Sat. & Sun. |
| 21. Rindge Ave.      | Mass. Ave.       | Alewife Brook Pkwy. | 24                                        |
| 22. River St.        | Memorial Dr.     | Western Ave.        | 7 PM-7AM weekdays<br>24 hrs. Sat. & Sun.  |
| 23. Sciarappa St.    | Msgr.O'Brien Hy. | Charles St.         | 24                                        |
| 24. Scott St.        | Irving St.       | Somerville Line     | 24                                        |
| 25. Seagrave Rd.     | Kimball St.      | Whittemore Ave.     | 24                                        |
| 26. Seventh St.      | Gore St.         | Spring St.          | 24                                        |
| 27. Sixth St.        | Charles St.      | Gore St.            | 24                                        |

April 3, 1984

| <u>STREET</u>     | <u>FROM</u>  | <u>TO</u>       | <u>HRS.</u>         |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 28. Spring St.    | Third St.    | Fulkerson St.   | 24                  |
| 29. Thorndike St. | Third St.    | Fulkerson St.   | 24                  |
| 30. Walden St.    | Concord Ave. | Mass. Ave.      | 24                  |
| 31. Washburn Ave. | Mass. Ave.   | City Line       | 24                  |
| 32. Western Ave.  | Mass. Ave.   | Memorial Dr.    | 7PM-7Am weekdays    |
|                   |              |                 | 24 hrs. Sat. & Sun. |
| 33. Winter St.    | Fifth St.    | Msgr O'Brien Hy | 24                  |

As you can see we are trying to keep truck traffic on our major arteries as well as on roads that would clearly be the safest but we must remember that with so many bridges regulated to 6 tons or less, we are having a tough time controlling these trucks. Some of the major bridges in our City are due for reconstruction which will assist them once they are completed. Scheduled for reconstruction during 1984-85 are the following bridges:

1. Mass. Ave. at Porter Square
2. Mass. Ave. over the Charles River (Harvard Bridge)
3. Alewife Brook Pkwy, north side of Rindge Ave.
4. Huron Ave. at Aberdeen Ave.

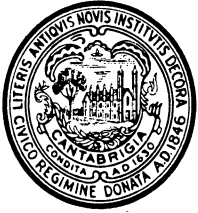
As you can see we do have some serious problems and are continuing to push for a safer Cambridge.

GT:Rd

OFFICE OF THE  
CITY MANAGER

APR 4 3 08 PM '84

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## CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139  
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
ROBERT W. HEALY  
City Manager

April 23, 1984

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With respect to City Council Order No. 6 of March 12, 1984,  
enclosed please find copy of a report from George Teso, Traffic Director,  
relative to heavy truck traffic in Cambridge.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

RWH/mbf  
Enc.

Agenda Item Number Three

Re: heavy truck traffic in Cambridge.

In City Council,

April 23, 1984

4/23/84

Placed on File -