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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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November 17, 2003

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item Number 03-122, regarding a report on the green light and pedestrian walk light timing for the traffic light at Walden Street and Massachusetts Avenue, Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger reports the following:

The intersection has two crosswalks: one across Walden Street and the other across Massachusetts Avenue on the western edge of the intersection

For the crossing of Walden Street, the WALK interval begins 3 seconds before the green light. This is a Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI) and gives the pedestrian a head start to enter the crosswalk before the first turning vehicle reaches the crossing. As a result, the vehicles are forced to yield to the pedestrian. This method is used at several intersections in the city and has been found to be an effective way to provide for the safety of pedestrians.

The Massachusetts Avenue crossing is activated only after pushing a button. When the button is pushed, no vehicle moves are permitted across the Massachusetts Avenue crossing during the WALK and flashing DON'T WALK intervals. There is no crosswalk across Massachusetts Avenue on the eastern edge of the intersection.

The Department has also recently met with residents of 2050 Massachusetts Avenue. The major problem is the conflict between cars on Massachusetts Avenue that turn right into Walden Street conflicting with pedestrians crossing Walden Street. The Department is currently reviewing the need for additional signal adjustments to address this issue.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

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Consent Agenda #4

Transmitting communication from
Robert W. Healy, City Manager,
relative to **Awaiting Report**
Item Number 03-122, regarding a
report on the green light and
pedestrian walk light timing for the
traffic light at Walden Street and
Massachusetts Avenue.

In City Council November 17, 2003

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