



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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MEMORANDUM

To: Richard C. Rossi, City Manager

From: Monica R. Lamboy, Interim Director 

Date: January 26, 2015

Re: Awaiting Order 14-128 Crosswalk at Cadbury Commons on Sherman Street

Per the City Council's request, the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department (TP&T) has studied the safety issues at the crosswalk and outside of Cadbury Commons on Sherman Street. Specifically, staff has reviewed crash history of the crosswalk across Sherman Street at Cadbury Commons and has performed a visit of the site.

Background

Cadbury Commons is a 74-unit independent/assisted living facility located at 66 Sherman Street in North Cambridge. It is located directly across from St. Peters Field. Crosswalks can be found on the south corner of the property crossing Cadbury Street and crossing Sherman Street, and on the north side of the property between the field's parking lot and the parking lot serving the office building at 64 Sherman Street. The entrance to the playing field is located adjacent to the northern of the two crosswalks; no entrance is found either directly across from Cadbury Commons or at the southern crosswalk. This reduces the likelihood of mid-block jaywalking in this area.



Research

TP&T staff searched the Cambridge Police Department database for all crashes on file between 1999 and December 9, 2014. A total of 9 reported crashes (or 0.6 crashes per year) were found. Of those, one occurred in 2010, one in 2007, three in 2004, two in 2002, and one each in 2001 and 2000. In three incidents, the vehicle collided with a fixed object or a parked car. It should be noted that none of the crashes reported to the police involved a pedestrian or a bicycle. Further, none of the nine crashes resulted in any injury.

On November 4th, after receiving this Awaiting Order, TP&T staff refreshed the crosswalk markings. A more recent site visit in December found good sightlines existed for all three crosswalks, even at dusk, as illustrated by the below photos.



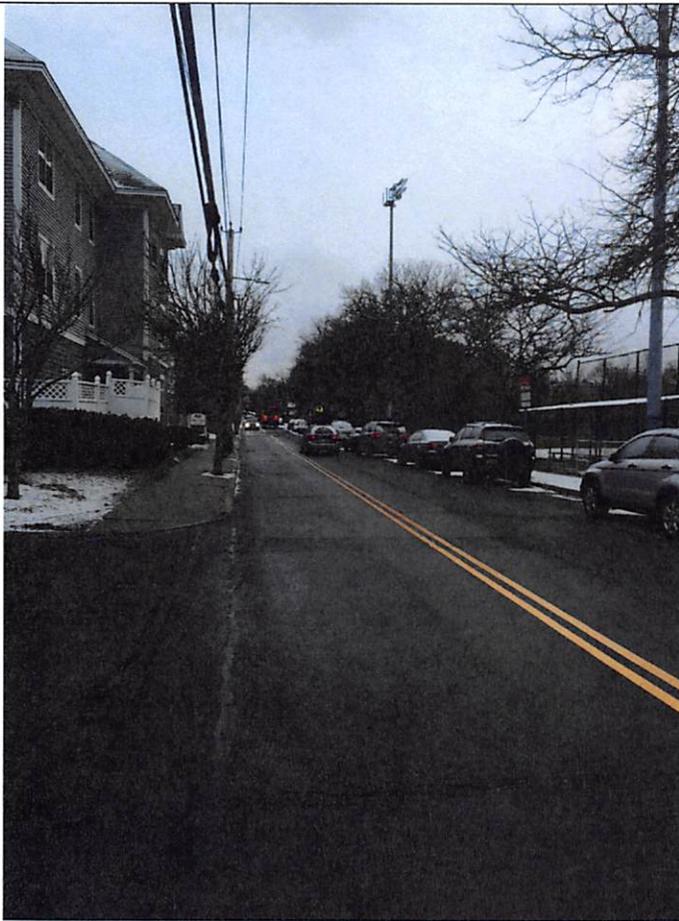
Looking north on Sherman Street, Cadbury Street and Cadbury Commons are on the right



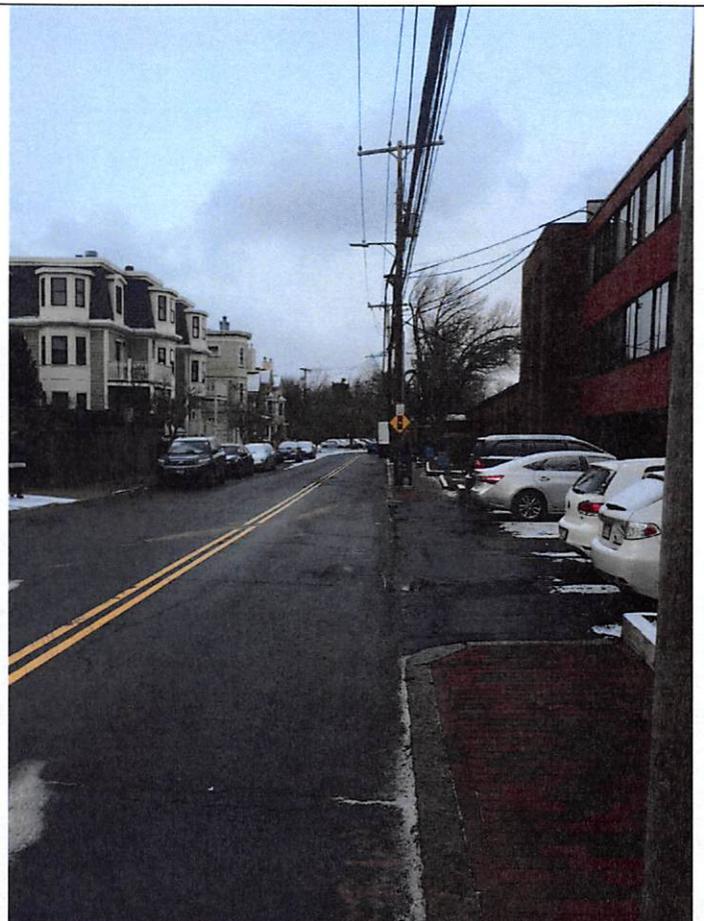
Looking south on Sherman Street, Cadbury Commons is on the left

At Cadbury Street, both sets crosswalk markings are in good condition and a school crossing sign is present on Sherman Street on both approaches. In addition, the curb extension on the west side of Sherman Street improves the sight lines from that end and reduces the crossing distance for pedestrians. The crosswalk across Sherman Street in this location is 20 feet long, or about 7 paces.

At the crossing closer to St. Peter's field, the crosswalk markings are also in good condition. A view from the crosswalk is shown below. Visibility is very good in both directions.



Looking south. Cadbury Commons is on the left.



Looking north. Despite the curve in the road, there is good visibility in this direction.

Safe Use of Crosswalks

The most important element of safety at a crosswalk is visibility. When both ends of the crosswalk can be seen from a long distance, drivers have time to see that a pedestrian intends to cross and then stop. Hills, curves, and obstructions near the curb line (such as vegetation, fences, and parked cars) are the most common things that impede these sight lines. At Cadbury Commons, no obstructions could be found that impede visibility of the crosswalks.

As with all marked crosswalks, although the law (Chapter 89, Section 11) requires all drivers to stop for pedestrians who step into a crosswalk, on occasion a driver opts not to do so. To best protect their own safety, pedestrians should be sure to look both ways, and make eye contact with the driver and be sure that he or she intends to stop before entering the crosswalk.