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March 31, 2008

**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEES ON FINANCE, TRAFFIC AND PARKING,  
AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

The Committees on Finance, Traffic and Parking, and Public Health and Public Safety convened in Joint Session on March 31, 2008, with Chairmen Maryann Heuston, Robert Trane and William White presiding and Committee Members Aldermen John Connolly, Bruce Desmond, Walter Pero and Dennis Sullivan also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen Sean O'Donovan and Thomas Taylor, Steve Winslow from SPCD and Finance Director Ed Bean.

Mr. Winslow addressed the committee regarding the Safe Start program and explained that this collaboration of the Mayor's Office, Public Works, Traffic and Parking and Strategic Planning and Community Development is an effort to make the City of Somerville more pedestrian and bicycle friendly by providing a safe environment for walking and bicycle riding, while also improving the health of its citizens and reducing motor vehicle traffic. During the first phase of the project, crosswalks and STOP signs at forty locations were improved by making them easier to see. Twenty-seven priority locations have been identified for improvements in the next phase. Mr. Winslow said that additional outreach with the senior community would be done in collaboration with the Council on Aging, Faulkner Towers, Brickbottom and the Disabilities Commission, to address their safety concerns. An RFP will be issued to determine what the cost will be. Implementation of the next phase would not begin until FY-09, probably in July. Among the improvements being considered are:

- Countdown pedestrian signal heads at Highland Towers and Brady Manor
- Countdown pedestrian signals at Park and Beacon Streets
- Stencils on Beacon Street
- Improved street lighting, pedestrian countdown signals, ADA ramps, bulb outs and parking improvements in East Somerville
- Bulb outs and pedestrian lead-phasing at Broadway/Temple Street and Broadway/School Street
- Curb extensions at the Brown School
- Bollards and curb extensions at the West Somerville Neighborhood School

Chairman Trane took issue with the plan stating that the safety issues at Clarendon Hill have not been addressed and noted that certain projects negotiated with Tufts were not done correctly, e.g., sidewalks that need to be corrected. Alderman Sullivan asked why it is taking so long to get traffic mitigation at Weston Manor. Both Chairmen Heuston and Trane emphasized the need to address the locations where people have died. Alderman Taylor expressed concern over safety issues in Union Square that need to be

addressed. Chairman Heuston further stated that the beautification of lower Broadway should not be paid for with Safe Start funds and Mr. Winslow said that the money earmarked for lower Broadway is mitigation money from the Stop and Shop. Alderman O'Donovan requested that the areas of Broadway/Boston Avenue and Bartlett/Medford Streets be examined for safety issues. Chairman White stated that he expects a further communication as a follow-up to tonight's meeting.

Mr. Bean told the members that the decision to appropriate free cash for the Safe Start program would be made after the FY-09 budget is set. Chairman Heuston stated that the mitigation funds from the Ivaloo Street lofts development are not to be used for another project.

Chairman Trane's motion *that a list of the top ten locations that must be dealt with by the City of Somerville be provided within one week*, was approved.

Chairman White's motion *that the Chief of Police be notified to appear before the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety to discuss citing bicyclists for infractions*, was approved. Chairman White also indicated that he would invite the Director of Traffic and Parking to appear, as well, to discuss pedestrian walk signal timing.

The **Committee on Finance** discussed matters before it and took action on the following item:

**184958:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend \$285,000 from the Safe-START fund to initiate Phase 2 for pedestrian improvements.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be placed on file

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

The **Committee on Public Health and Public Safety** discussed matters before it and took action on the following item:

**182329:** Communication from Mayor - Conveying the preliminary report of the Safe Sustainable Transportation Assessment and Recommendations Team (Safe-START).

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be placed on file

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

The **Committee on Traffic and Parking** discussed matters before it and took no action on any items.

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Alderman Maryann Heuston, Chairman  
Committee on Finance

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Alderman Robert Trane, Chairman  
Committee on Traffic and Parking

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Alderman William A. White, Jr., Chairman  
Committee on Public Health and Public Safety

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Report of the Joint Committees on Finance,  
Traffic and Parking, and Public Health and  
Public Safety, March 31, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

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Clerk