

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION RELATIVE TO  
THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING AREA OVER  
THE NEPONSET RIVER IN THE MATTAPAN  
DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

UNDER CHAPTER 84 OF THE RESOLVES OF 1960

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DECEMBER 27, 1960

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SPECIAL REPORT

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

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## REPORT OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING AREA OVER THE NEPONSET RIVER IN THE MATTAPAN DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF BOSTON.

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METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION,  
20 SOMERSET STREET, BOSTON 8, December 27, 1960.

*To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled.*

Chapter 84 of the Resolves of the current year directs the Metropolitan District Commission to make an investigation and study relative to the construction of a parking area over the Neponset River in the Mattapan District of Boston, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the metropolitan district commission is hereby authorized and directed to make an investigation and study relative to the advisability and feasibility of constructing a parking area over the Neponset river in the Mattapan district of the city of Boston so as to provide parking facilities for the Mattapan business district extending from the Mattapan bridge to a point opposite Edgewater drive. Said commission shall consider the feasibility of constructing such parking area on piles or stanchions so that the flow of said river will not be obstructed. Said commission may expend such sums as may be appropriated therefor. Said commission shall report the results of its investigation and study, and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the house of representatives on or before the last Wednesday of December in the current year.

*Approved July 6, 1960.*

Under the terms of chapter 743 of the Acts of 1955, the Commission was authorized and directed to dredge and otherwise improve the Neponset River and its tributaries to relieve flood conditions and permit the reclamation of lands adjacent thereto in Boston and the towns upstream in the river valley in the Metropolitan District.

The Commission's consulting engineers have not made any detailed studies of the Neponset River in the vicinity of the Mattapan bridge, but they have indicated to our engineers that the opening

through the existing bridge is not large enough to carry flood flows, that this bridge should be rebuilt and channel improvements made immediately upstream from the bridge.

In 1958, it was necessary for the Commission to remove an accumulation of boulders from the river bed downstream from the bridge, clean accumulations of debris underneath the arches of the bridge and grade the river bed in the vicinity of the Primpas property to prevent water from seeping into the basement of this building. Our engineers are of the opinion that the erection of piles or stanchions in the river channel as supports for a parking area deck would create obstructions around which debris floating downstream would become entangled, thus creating a very undesirable condition particularly during periods of flood flows. We know from earlier experiences that there usually is a large amount of debris floating in the Neponset River.

Our flood control engineers have suggested that the construction of a parking area at this location await the further studies they have in mind relative to the advisability of replacing or reconstructing the existing Mattapan bridge and improving the river channel in this immediate vicinity.

The Mattapan Square area since World War II has gradually developed into a very busy shopping and business district where parking has become a quite acute problem. The Commission has made substantial improvements to Blue Hills Parkway beyond the Square and, in 1958, it channelized the Square with traffic lights controlling the movement of vehicles from and through all of its approaches. These improvements have provided fluidity to the movement of traffic, but the parking problem remains much the same as it has been. The construction of a deck over the river in the area described in Resolve, No. 84 would provide room for about thirty-five cars, but at a cost roughly estimated by our engineers of \$250,000. We believe a much better answer to the problem would be to acquire privately owned land for off-street parking within reasonable walking distance of Mattapan Square. The cost should be considerably less than it would be for constructing a deck over the river.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT F. MURPHY,  
*Commissioner.*