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**The History:** This ramp was built in the early 1970s. It was supposed to connect I-93 to the Inner Belt (I-695). The state was so confident they would defeat the protesters that they started building the connection before they had legal permission for the rest of the road. When the Governor (Francis Sargent) finally cancelled the Inner Belt in 1970, the construction stopped instantly. That "stub" has been hanging there for 50 years as a monument to the community's victory.



A  
FIELD GUIDE TO

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**PEOPLE  
BEFORE  
HIGHWAYS**

# PEOPLE BEFORE HIGHWAYS





## 1. CAMBRIDGE CITY HALL

**Location:** 795 Massachusetts Ave.

**The History:** This is where the political battles were fought. It is where Anstis Benfield marched to nail her petition to the door, and where Mayor Barbara Ackermann eventually declared the city's official opposition to the state's plan.

**Reflect:** Stand on the front steps. Notice one thing about the architecture and think about what Anstis Benfield thought about when looking at the same thing.

Cambridge

CENTRAL SQUARE

# SITES VISITED

1

2

3

4

5

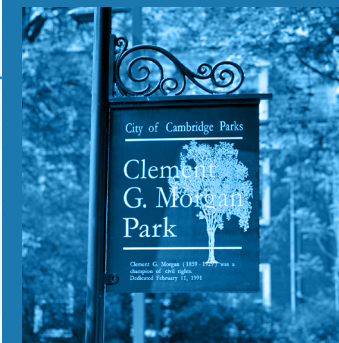


## 2. ST. MARY'S CHURCH

**Location:** 134 Norfolk St, Cambridge (The Port/Area 4)

**The History:** Father Paul J. McManus turned the basement into the command center where residents printed flyers, held heated debates, and organized marches.

**Imagine:** Stand on the steps. Look at the triple-decker houses directly across the street. If the highway had passed, this church might still be here, but every house you see across the street would be a concrete wall or an off-ramp.



## 3. CLEMENT MORGAN PARK

**Location:** Columbia St & Washington St.

**The History:** This park sits in the heart of "The Port" (formerly Area 4), the neighborhood most threatened by the highway. The state targeted this area specifically because it was a diverse and working-class.

**Listen:** Set a timer for 60 seconds of silence. Write down every specific sound you hear on the back of this pamphlet.

Kendall/MIT



## 4. BEAT THE BELT MURAL

**Location:** 730 Memorial Drive (On the side of the Micro Center building, facing the Trader Joe's parking lot/River).

**The History:** Painted by artist Bernard LaCasse in 1980, this mural celebrates the victory. It depicts diverse community members (including Anstis Benfield) physically holding back bulldozers and police cars.

**Find:** The woman holding the "Stop the Belt" sign. Who is that?



## 5. GRAND JUNCTION RAILROAD TRACKS

**Location:** The railroad crossing on Dr Paul Dudley White Bike Path

**The History:** The Inner Belt was planned to follow the path of these existing railroad tracks. It would have been an 8-lane elevated highway slicing right through MIT and the neighborhoods behind it.

**Find it:** Find the tracks. Starting at the BU Boathouse, walk towards Magazine beach on the bike path.

Charles River  
Charles River Basin

Muddy River