Ervin discusses privacy

By Leon Taterovson

The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) is negotiating with an area consulting firm to study possible renovations of the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Memorial Drive near the main MIT entrance.

The MDC is in “final stages” of negotiations with Greiner Engineering Company, Inc., a Newton consulting firm, for a contract to study “possible options at the approaches at both ends of the Harvard Bridge” and to make those areas safer for drivers and pedestrians using the bridge, an MDC official told The Tech.

The high accident rate of the intersections at either end of the bridge prompted the study, Gus Willoh, MDC Parks engineer said. The intersection on the Cambridge side of the bridge, as well as the Memorial Drive underpass which allows drivers to by-pass Massachusetts Avenue, has come under heavy criticism in the past as a traffic hazard.

The intersection consists of an underpass about 100 yards from Massachusetts Avenue on Memorial Drive as well as the Memorial Drive-University Avenue/ Memorial Drive intersection. U-turns at the intersection are restricted to certain directions.

The study of the intersection is apparently part of an ongoing MDC study of the driving hazards of Memorial Drive and the Harvard Bridge, which has completed plans to replace the bridge within the next five years, and Willoh said possible modifications of the underpass have been considered.

Officials at Greiner refused to comment on their study, saying only that the contract was under negotiation. The firm is considering “many options” in its study, one official told The Tech, but has not elaborated on the consideration.

Completion of the study will still be months away and the time of the intersection, Willoh said, told The Tech that the MDC Parks must approve funds for any construction.