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North West Community Council
October 25, 2007

TO: Chair and Members of North West Community Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Labrecque".

Mike Labrecque, P. Eng., Director, Transportation and Public Works

DATE: September 17, 2007

SUBJECT: Left Turn Arrow - Sackville Drive at Riverside Drive

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 4 raised at the May 10, 2007 meeting of the North West Community Council.

BACKGROUND

At the May 10, 2007, meeting of North West Community Council, it was moved by Councillor Harvey and Seconded by Councillor Johns that the traffic light at Sackville Drive and Riverside Drive be turned into a flashing left turn signal all the time instead of only a flashing turn signal during the afternoon rush hour traffic.

Currently, a protected left turn phase for vehicles wanting to turn left onto Riverside Drive from Sackville Drive is provided if there are enough vehicles waiting in the left-hand lane. The lane is a shared through/left lane. The protected left turn phase is triggered by a loop in the pavement, located 20 metres from the intersection. Typically this means there would need to be at least three or four vehicles waiting when the light turns green in order for the protected left turn phase to be activated. The intersection operates in this manner 24 hours per day.

DISCUSSION

Observations made at the intersection prove that the current setup is working. Typically during the peak hours there are enough vehicles in the left lane to trigger the protected left turn advance phase. As it is a shared lane, vehicles may go straight through or make the left turn during this phase. The vehicles in the right lane are also able to proceed at this time. During off-peak times when there is typically not enough vehicles at the intersection to trigger the protected left turn phase, there are generally enough gaps in the opposing traffic or time at the end of the green phase for vehicles to make the left turn. Rarely did a vehicle have to wait through another cycle to make a left turn.

Changing to a full-time left turn phase would have a detrimental effect on the operation of this intersection and traffic flow on Sackville Drive. It would create the potential to attract more vehicles to Riverside Drive, a residential street and it would cause more delay for westbound vehicles on Sackville Drive.

According to our observations, the current setup appears to be working fine, causing little delay for left turning vehicles. Therefore, no changes to the signal phasing are recommended at this time.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS


There is no budget implications.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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Report Approved by: 
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