



Traffic Engineering and Parking Divisions

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TO: Pedestrian/Bicycle/Motor Vehicle Commission
FROM: David C. Dryer, City Traffic Engineer
SUBJECT: Capitol Loop Traffic Needs Study, 2/28/06 PMBVC Agenda Item E.2.

This study was completed in response to numerous requests for traffic signals at the eight non-signalized intersections on the Capitol Loop. Other measures like signing and markings were contemplated, however it was felt resources would be better spent at this time reviewing an active traffic control system. The HNTB study provided the detailed and technical findings of this review. A primary component of this study focused on collecting vehicle and pedestrian data, modeling the existing signal network, modeling a signal network with additional signals at the eight non-signalized intersections, and analyzing the impacts and relative need for signals at these intersections.

The study recommended keeping the current traffic control and pedestrian conditions. It also found that signals can operate within the existing street network without severe negative impacts. Discussion on this report at City committee levels and reaction from downtown alders to date indicate that the concern for pedestrian and vehicle safety and pedestrian mobility will continue to be of special interest in the future, but the need for immediate signal installation is not apparent.

We recommend that Traffic Engineering staff expand on this report through additional data collection (notably gap study for pedestrian crossings and crash rates), evaluate the costs and impacts of non-signal measures to address concerns (signing and marking, bump-outs or other geometric changes) and include all eight non-signalized intersections in the 2006 Traffic Signal Priority List. The relative need for signals or other improvement measures can then be considered in the context of citywide needs while simultaneously allowing the City to move quickly to install any future needed signal as downtown development and ped/cyclist and motor vehicle volumes continue to increase.

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