



Peter C. Daniels
Principal Engineer
Engineering Department
414.302.8374
pdaniels@westalliswi.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gary Barczak, Chair, Board of Public Works
Vincent Vitale, First District
Cathleen M. Probst, Second District
Thomas G. Lajsic, Fourth District
Rosalie Reinke, Fifth District

FROM: Peter C. Daniels P.E., Principal Engineer

DATE: February 7, 2017

RE: **Communication from Principal Engineer regarding Traffic Signal Removal at the Intersection of 81st and National Avenue**

On March 15, 2016 the Council approved a State/Municipal Agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for the reconstruction of W. National Avenue from 76th Street to 82nd Street (R-2016-0060). As part of that design work, the City's engineering consultant, Graef, conducted a Traffic Signal Removal Study for the traffic signal at National Avenue and S. 81st Street. The study found that **NONE of the eight traffic signal warrants are expected to be met** with the design year (Year 2040) traffic volumes and that a **traffic signal is not justified at this location**.

In order to determine if traffic conditions justify the removal of the traffic signal, the design year traffic volumes were compared to the warrants for traffic signal installation set forth in the 2009 Edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). An analysis was also completed to determine if the intersection would operate acceptably if the traffic signal is removed. The southbound movement is expected to experience LOS E conditions during the evening peak hour. All other movements at the intersection are expected to operate acceptably at LOS D or better conditions during the peak hours. It is important to note that traffic signals can contribute significantly to some types of intersection crashes and introduce delays to motorists on busy arterial roadways. Too many traffic signals can reduce the ability to provide good traffic flow progression.

In addition, the West Allis School Board is currently considering changes to the use of the nearby Lincoln Intermediate School. These changes would include having current Lincoln Intermediate students and incoming 6th graders attend Lane, Frank Lloyd Wright, and West Milwaukee intermediate schools for the 2017-2018 school year. The Lincoln school facility would then be used to house The Learning Center, Bridges to Learning and the pilot NxGLC high school program.

If the traffic signal is approved for removal, the City will follow the MUTCD removal procedures before construction begins in 2020.