



AMHERST TOWN COUNCIL

RFD# 2024079

Date: September 23, 2024

TO: Mayor Kogon and Members of Council

SUBMITTED BY: Aaron Bourgeois, Director of Operations

DATE: September 23, 2024

SUBJECT: Victoria Street and LaPlanche Street Traffic Signals

ORIGIN: Motor vehicle accident in June that damaged the traffic signals making them inoperable and subsequent traffic signal warrant analysis.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY: MGA 47 (2) The council may exercise any of its powers and duties by resolution unless a policy or a by-law is required by an enactment.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council approve removing the traffic signals from the intersection of Victoria Street and LaPlanche Street and installing the appropriate signage for an all way (4-way) stop intersection, and further that Council direct staff to investigate accessibility options for cross walk signals at the intersection of Havelock and Victoria Street.

BACKGROUND: Following a motor vehicle accident at the Victoria Street and LaPlanche Street intersection, the existing traffic signals had to be deactivated, and it has been operating as an all-way stop since that time.

Similar to when the traffic signals at the intersection of Church Street and Albion Street were damaged in 2010, staff hired a consultant to complete a traffic signal warrant analysis for the intersection of Victoria / LaPlanche and Victoria / Church. The analysis was completed using the methodology provided by the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) to determine if traffic signal control is warranted.

Staff completed the vehicle and pedestrian counts for the consultant on June 26 and June 27 collecting data for a six-hour period at each intersection. To capture the peak traffic volumes the counts were collected at;

- Morning 7:00am to 9:00am
- Mid-Day 11:30am to 1:30pm
- Afternoon 4:00pm to 6:00pm

The purpose of the study was to determine if traffic signals are needed at these intersections.

DISCUSSION: Using the traffic data collected, and using a “growth rate” of 1% per year for 5 years to account for increased vehicle and pedestrian demand in the future, the traffic volumes used for analysis are representative of estimated 2029 conditions.



The results of the warrant analysis suggest traffic signals are not needed at either intersection. Staff observations of the Victoria / LaPlanche intersection agree with the study that an all stop intersection does not cause any considerable traffic delay.

As suggested, if the traffic signals were to be removed staff would install new sign posts with signage as show below;



and "Stop Sign Ahead" signage in advance of the intersection.





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The consultant does recommend further intersection analysis to look at the curb alignment and lane configuration to ensure maximum intersection level of service and safety for vehicles and pedestrians. This could be included in next years capital budget.

Staff are not recommending removing the traffic signals from the intersection of Church and Victoria Street at this time.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: The cost for labor and materials to reinstate the damaged traffic signals is approximately \$50,000. A detailed estimate has been sent to the truck drivers insurance company for review, we expect they will apply a depreciation factor (based on age) to the damaged lights and poles and will be offering a settlement in the range of \$35,000 which would leave the Town responsible for about \$15,000 in expenses.

If the signals are removed and replaced with stop signs, this work would be in the range of \$3,000.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS: There are no social justice implications.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS: There are no environmental implications

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Should the traffic signals be removed, staff will prepare a media release and social media posts to inform the public of the change.

ALTERNATIVES: Do not remove the traffic signals and direct staff to complete the required repairs.

ATTACHMENTS: None

Report prepared by:

Report and Financial approved by:

