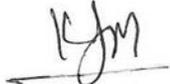




Nicolás H. Bosonetto, P.E.
City Engineer

Date: January 24, 2018
TO: Kevin J. Murphy, City Manager 
VIA: Tom Bellegarde, Assistant City Manager/DPW Commissioner
FROM: Nicolás H. Bosonetto, P.E., City Engineer

SUBJECT: 12/5/17 Councilor Elliot – Request City Traffic Engineer determine if the traffic signals at the intersection of Mammoth road and 4th Avenue (in front of the McAvinnue School) can be changed to the type that have a flashing white strip in the center, similar to those on the Pawtucket Blvd. at Camelot Court/Sampas pavilion.

The white strip across red traffic signal lenses are actually LED strobe lights that flash in order to draw attention. These strobe lights have not been allowed per federal and state laws since 1990:

“Section 4D.06 of the 2009 MUTCD specifically prohibits strobes within or adjacent to any signal indication. Research and experimentation over the years with white strobe lights as a circular ‘halo’ outer ring around the red signal or as horizontal bar across the red signal has found no lasting safety benefit and, in some cases, the strobes resulted in increased crash frequency. Based on this experience, FHWA made a determination in 1990 that no further experimentation with strobe lights in traffic signals would be approved and that all existing strobes were to be removed... Therefore, it is still FHWA's position that strobe lights are not allowed in or adjacent to traffic signals and that no further experimentations with these types of strobe lights in traffic signals will be approved.” Per mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov

The City Engineer has requested the City Electrician update the Pawtucket Blvd. at Camelot Court to comply with state and federal law.

The traffic signal at the McAvinnue School is only there for pedestrian traffic. It does not serve any traffic control functions.