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*In cc packets
4/24/09
by
Brynch*

Bernard F. Lynch
City Manager

TO: Mayor Edward Caulfield
And
Members of the Lowell City Council

FROM: Bernard F. Lynch, City Manager 

DATE: April 22, 2009

SUBJECT: **MOTION OF 2/24/09 BY COUNCILOR KAZANJIAN
"REQUEST THE CITY MANAGER HAVE THE TRAFFIC
ENGINEER EVALUATE WHETHER A LEFT TURN ARROW
IS WARRANTED ON BRIDGE STREET TURNING ONTO
FRENCH STREET".**

I have been in contact with Adam Baacke, Assistant City Manager & DPD Director regarding the above mentioned motion request. He has informed me that Jeff Gomes, Transportation Engineer has visited the intersection in question and has researched traffic information. The research included traffic count data as well as accident data. The traffic count data indicates that there are 105 vehicles and 64 vehicles in the AM and PM peaks respectively turning left from Bridge onto French Street. There are also 420 vehicles and 360 vehicles in the AM and PM peaks respectively making a conflicting movement with the opposing left turns. In the traffic engineering industry, warrants for a protected left turn lane are determined from the volumes of these conflicting movements, accident data, and engineering judgment. In this case, these conflicting volumes and accidents are not great enough to warrant a protected left turn phase. There are some safety benefits with installing protected movements, however, installing protected movements when they are not warranted increases the overall delay of the intersection and affects how well an intersection operates (which often leads to motorists finding alternative routes such as cut-through streets).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

cc: Adam Baacke, Assistant City Manager & DPD Director
Lt. Tim Crowley, Lowell Police Department
Anne Barton, Deputy Director
Diane Tradd, Chief Design Planner
Jeffrey Gomes, Transportation Engineer
Matthew Roux, Assistant Traffic Planner