



MEMORANDUM

Diane Nichols Tradd  
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

Craig Thomas  
Deputy Director

DATE: February 9, 2021

SUBJECT: MOTION OF 1/12/21 BY COUNCILOR CHAU  
REQUEST CITY MANAGER INVESTIGATE AND IMPLEMENT IMMEDIATE  
REMEDIAL TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS AT THE LORD OVERPASS

The Lord Overpass reconstruction project recently implemented a new traffic pattern as the project enters a new phase of construction that will last for most of 2021. The new traffic pattern is very different than the typical way drivers have previously traveled through the Lord Overpass. Unfortunately, the City received the first large snow storm of the season within a few days of opening the new traffic pattern, which made the transition process especially tough for drivers. Upon receiving complaints about the new traffic pattern, City staff from Police, Engineering, Public Works, and Planning and Development, among others, met with the contractor to review possible improvements. As a result of that initial meeting and this motion, the City is taking the following remedial actions for the Lord Overpass during this phase of construction:

- Staff created a new snow plowing plan for the area and will start snow removal to make sure the maximum possible space is available in the open roadway.
- Staff directed the contractor to complete—or completed themselves—the following signage improvements to help drivers:
  - Installed new signs that show the turning movements for the new traffic lanes.
  - Painted new lane markings on the road in late December.
  - Orange construction barrels were placed on the double yellow pavement markings in order to clearly delineate inbound and outbound traffic lanes, eliminating a hazard when snowfall is covering pavement markings.
  - Adjusted vehicle detour signage to the highest traffic volume streets around the project.
- Staff reviewed existing street lights based upon Council concerns. At least one light pole owned by National Grid does not function properly and staff are working to have it repaired by NGrid.

Going forward, City staff will continue to monitor the situation throughout the winter. In the coming months, street markings and pothole patching will be updated regularly as weather allows.

CRT/ns

cc: Christine Clancy, P.E., DPW Commissioner  
Ting Chang, P.E., City Engineer  
John Gleason, Grade V Senior Engineer  
Craig Thomas, Deputy Director DPD  
Alan Heredia, Assistant Transportation Engineer