



Nicolás H. Bosonetto, P.E.
City Engineer (Interim)

Date: November 16, 2017
TO: Kevin J. Murphy, City Manager
VIA: Tom Bellegarde, Assistant City Manager/DPW Commissioner
FROM: Nicolás H. Bosonetto, P.E., City Engineer (Interim)

SUBJECT: 10/24/17 Councilor Leary – Request City Manager review the Feasibility of Changing the direction of traffic over the Howe, Ouellette and Rourke Bridges; One-way during peak driving periods, in an effort to determine if this could improve traffic congestion.

Alternating traffic directions on the Howe, Ouellette, and Rourke Bridges would entail significant logistical and financial costs while not alleviating traffic congestion and it is therefore not recommended.

In order to alternate one-way inbound traffic in the mornings, two-way traffic during the day, and one-way outbound traffic in the afternoons significant traffic signal improvements would have to be made at both sides of each bridge. Moreover wrong-way traffic would be a constant safety hazard requiring on-site LPD presence to monitor the situation.

From a traffic perspective there would still be significant travel demand to cross the river in the opposite direction throughout the day and no realistic alternative routes. Access to and from vital institutions on both sides of the river would be negatively impacted including Lowell General Hospital and UML.