

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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4-23-02

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 10, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNAL TO BE LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF NORTH BEAUREGARD STREET AND QUANTRELL AVENUE

ISSUE: City Council consideration of staff recommendation regarding installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of North Beauregard Street and Quantrell Avenue.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize staff to install a traffic signal at the intersection of North Beauregard Street and Quantrell Avenue.

BACKGROUND: The DASH bus company requested that the Transportation and Environmental Services Department install a traffic signal at the intersection of Beauregard Street and Quantrell Avenue. The reason for the request was because buses were having difficulty entering the intersection due to the volume of traffic on Beauregard Street. An engineering study was performed to determine whether a traffic signal was required. Based on the data analyzed, this intersection meets the requirements for the installation of a traffic signal contained in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

This issue was brought before the Traffic and Parking Board at its March 25, 2002, meeting. At the public hearing, Ms. Shira Harrington, a concerned citizen, spoke in support of the request. The Board voted unanimously to approve the request.

DISCUSSION: The engineering study conducted by staff found that four of the 11 warrants in the MUTCD for traffic signal installation were met. Only one warrant needs to be met to justify installing a traffic signal. The MUTCD is approved by the Federal Highway Administration as the National Standard for traffic control devices. The four warrants that were met were: 1) Warrant 1 - Minimum Vehicular Volume (the number of vehicles entering the intersection), 2) Warrant 2 - Interruption of Continuous Flow (excessive delay or hazard for vehicles entering or crossing a major street), 3) Warrant 9 - Four Hour Volumes, and 4) Warrant 11 - Peak Hour Volume.

If approved, the installation of a traffic signal at this intersection will improve the safety and vehicular access from Quantrell Avenue.

FISCAL IMPACT: The construction cost of the traffic signal is estimated to be \$80,000. Funding is available from the FY2002 Budget.

ATTACHMENTS: None

STAFF:

Richard Baier, P.E., Director, Transportation and Environmental Services

Doug McCobb, P.E., Deputy Director, Transportation and Transit Services, T&ES