

REPORT
Regular Council Meeting
1990 September 24

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
(TRAFFIC DIVISION)

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND ALDERMEN

A. INSTALLATION OF PEDESTRIAN OPERATED TRAFFIC SIGNAL
AT 6TH STREET AND 14TH AVENUE

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a pedestrian operated traffic signal be installed at 6th Street and 14th Avenue.

R E P O R T

BACKGROUND

At the regular Council meeting held on 1990 June 18, Council received a report from the Assistant Director Engineering - Traffic and Engineering Systems regarding intersections on 6th Street from 12th Avenue to 18th Avenue and adopted the following recommendations:

- 1) THAT the existing pedestrian actuated signal at 6th Street and 16th Avenue be upgraded to include vehicle actuation.
- 2) THAT parking bans be implemented on 6th Street at 12th Avenue, 14th Avenue, 15th Avenue and 18th Avenue to improve sight distance for pedestrians.
- 3) THAT staff study the feasibility of implementing a pedestrian actuated traffic signal on 6th Street between 12th and 14th Avenues as a further measure of ensuring pedestrian safety.
- 4) THAT Isabel McCurdy of #13 - 7330 6th Street, Burnaby, B.C., V3N 4S3 and Harvey Elder, President of the East Burnaby Ratepayers Association, 8251 14th Avenue, Burnaby, B.C., V3W 2C1, be sent a copy of this report.

CURRENT SITUATION

At a meeting on 1990 September 19, the Traffic and Transportation Committee (Traffic Division) received the following report from the Assistant Director Engineering - Traffic and Engineering Systems responding to a Committee request to review the desirability of installing a pedestrian actuated signal at 6th Street and 13th Avenue:

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:

AGENDA - 1990 SEPTEMBER 24
COPY - MUNICIPAL MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING INSPECTION
- O.I.C., R.C.M.P.

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"We have analyzed intersection pedestrian and vehicular count data relative to the ITE (Institute of Transportation Engineers) minimum pedestrian volume warrant for signalization. This warrant is satisfied when a minimum 600 or more vehicles per hour enter the intersection on the main street during the same 8 hour period when there are 150 or more pedestrians per hour crossing. Our counts indicate that approximately 45 pedestrians per hour cross 6th Street at 13th Avenue during peak periods. In isolation, the intersection does not warrant signalization on this basis.

As requested, staff also carried out a warrant analysis based on the tacit assumption that all pedestrians that now cross one block in either direction would use a signal to cross 6th Street at 13th Avenue. The results showed a maximum potential of 127 pedestrians per hour crossing if 100% of pedestrians within the three block area chose to cross there. This still falls short of meeting the minimum pedestrian volume warrant. We note that this assumption of pedestrian traffic diversion to a signal is overly optimistic. If one considers that the businesses in the area predominantly cater to the individual shopping needs of the adjacent neighbourhood residents, it is unlikely that the residents would be willing to walk the extra distance to cross at a signal at 13th Avenue.

Conclusions

The intersection of 6th Street at 13th Avenue does not warrant the installation of a traffic signal, either vehicular or pedestrian actuated. Unwarranted signals may increase vehicular accident frequency and in this case introduce sufficient delay along the 6th Street corridor to cause circuitous travel by alternate routes through adjacent neighbourhoods.

As a result of a previous report to the Committee regarding pedestrian crossing safety along the 6th Street corridor, staff have sign posted additional corner clearance parking restrictions to improve visibility at the intersections. Council has also approved the conversion of the 16th Avenue/6th Street pedestrian signal to full vehicle actuation. This will result in more gaps in the traffic stream for crossing pedestrians at other intersections along 6th Street. Staff will be monitoring the effectiveness of these measures and pending that review do not recommend further action."

The Committee subsequently adopted a motion receiving this report for information purposes.

Arising out of a discussion regarding possible locations for a pedestrian operated traffic signal the Committee adopted a motion recommending that a pedestrian operated traffic signal be installed at 6th Street and 14th Avenue.

Respectfully submitted,

Alderman J. Young
Chairman

Alderman R.G. Begin
Member

Alderman L.A. Rankin
Member