



Committee of the Whole

Meeting Date: January 17, 2023
Submitted by: Chris Traini, Deputy CAO/County Engineer
Subject: New Traffic Signals on Middlesex County Roads

BACKGROUND:

Each fall several intersections are investigated to determine if the installation of new traffic signals is warranted.

ANALYSIS:

It has been the policy of the County of Middlesex to install traffic signals when traffic counts at intersections meet the minimum warrants as established by the Ministry of Transportation in the Ontario Traffic Manual. These warrants include minimum vehicle volumes, delays to cross traffic, accident hazards and minimum pedestrian volumes.

None of the intersections examined in the fall of 2022 came close to the warrants with regards to pedestrian volumes or collision hazards. Typically vehicle volumes and delays to cross traffic are the most significant factors when determining whether traffic signals are warranted on Middlesex County roads.

Many people have the misconception that the installation of traffic signals improve safety or help to eliminate vehicular collisions. In reality, installation of traffic signals where they are not warranted can actually lead to an increased number of collisions and with greater severity.

The results of this year's intersection investigations are as follows:

County Road 33 (Second Street) and Head Street, Strathroy-Caradoc

In anticipation of development in the area County staff continue to monitor this intersection for growth in traffic volumes and the potential installation of traffic signals, however traffic volumes are still too low to warrant signalization of this intersection at this time.

County Road 81 (Adelaide Road) and Parkhouse Drive, Strathroy-Caradoc

Similar to the intersection noted above, development in the south end of Mt. Brydges and the connection of Parkhouse Drive to the 402 Highway and the City of London makes that road an attractive alternative to Glendon Drive. However development has been slow and the traffic at this intersection is still well below traffic signal warrant volumes.

County Road 39 (Metcalf Street E) and Head Street, Strathroy-Caradoc

As recommended in the Strathroy-Caradoc Transportation Master Plan this intersection was investigated for traffic signal warrants and the traffic volumes well exceed the minimum warrants. It is recommended that traffic signals be installed at this intersection in 2023.

County Road 2 (Dundas Street) and County Road 27 (Nissouri Road), Thames Centre

This intersection has been very close to meeting the warrants for traffic signals for many years but traffic growth has not occurred as expected. Therefore this intersection will continue to be reviewed bi-annually for traffic signal warrants.

County Road 15 (Carriage Road) and County Road 35 (Littlewoods Drive)

Over the past few years there has been significant commercial development just inside on the Onieda Nation of the Thames territory which has resulted in a large increase in traffic volumes through the intersection of Carriage Road and Littlewoods Drive to the point where traffic signals are warranted.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the installation of traffic signals at the intersection of County Road 39 (Metcalf Street East) and Head Street and the intersection of County Road 15 (Carriage Road) and County Road 35 (Littlewoods Drive) be included in the draft 2023 capital budget for consideration by the Budget Committee.