



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS
Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: 06-14-2021

Prepared By: Dennis Carr – City Engineer

Agenda Item: Business 24 and Eagle Avenue Intersection Signalization

Explanation: Traffic at the intersection of Eagle Avenue and Business 24 is a nightmare during school drop off and pick up. School-aged children routinely cross this intersection to get to Dairy Queen and other businesses on the south side of Business 24. This is a very unsafe crossing and would be made better by the addition of a signal.

While the location is pedestrian-unfriendly and a traffic nightmare, it has never met IDOT's warrants for a traffic signal and IDOT won't allow a signal without meeting specific traffic warrants. The developer of the Beck Oil facility was required to do an intersection design study for their new entrance/southern extension of Eagle. This study included a traffic study of the area. This new traffic study, with the increased trips generated from the gas station, has proven to meet the warrants set forth by IDOT for a traffic signal at this location.

A few items staff have identified moving forward:

- IDOT will not allow signals to be placed on private property and would require the City to acquire the necessary ROW from Beck's to place signals. Beck's has always intended to dedicate the southern section of Eagle to the City of Washington, so this would not be an issue.
- Making this a signalized intersection would require the construction of ADA ramps in all quadrants as well as crosswalks. This will greatly increase the safety of this intersection and allow students to safely cross the roadway.
- The future design of Bus. 24 is not done. The signals could be placed in a location expected to not be affected by future construction but if future design of Bus. 24 requires relocation, the cost of relocating is unknown. Equipment can largely be relocated and reused except for foundations. IDOT hasn't shared if they would pay to relocate or if the City would have to pay for relocation.
- Future maintenance of signals would be 100% City instead of a local/state split.
- If not installed before the Bus. 24 design, there is no guarantee that the traffic counts at that time will warrant a signal. Planned traffic generation does not always equal future real life trip generation.
- The signal design is being included in the intersection design study for this intersection because it meets warrants. This has all been at the cost of the Beck Oil developer.
- IDOT has offered to let us borrow a controller and cabinet and will let us install temporary signals for this location because the lead time on signal equipment is normally longer than 6 months.

Fiscal Impact: Cost for a signalized intersection can be upwards of \$500,000. This particular intersection has narrower side roads and can be made ADA accessible relatively easy. The cost to

signalize this intersection will be closer to 300,000. This would include the cost to install temporary signals to have working while the new mast arms are ordered.

Recommendation/Committee Discussion Summary: Staff requests direction from the City Council on moving forward with signalizing this intersection.

Action Requested: Discussion and recommendation on direction forward with the signalization of this intersection.