Meeting record: McKnight/John Laurie intersection improvements

2017-08-16 revised 2017-08-16

In attendance:

Bob Porteous, Terry Arnett, NHCA

Tony Churchill, Meera Kopp, Travis Gaede, Naveed Butt

City of Calgary Transportation Safety Engineering & Transportation Planning.

This was the second meeting to review safety concerns at the intersection. Excellent progress has been made and NHCA expressed appreciation to City Transportation engineers. The issues addressed were:

1. **Reconfiguration to simplify the intersection:**

These changes are recommended by City Transportation and by NHCA as essential safety improvements and are common to all 6 options:

1. Eliminating the west turn lane from John Laurie to 48th.
2. Eliminating the north turn lane from 48th to the gravel maintenance area.
3. NHCA has identified a need to reconfigure the gravel maintenance area to exclude public parking. The city has not committed to this.
4. **Traffic controls for the existing intersection:**

1. Increasing the size of the dual turn signs and traffic speed signs to more clearly designate the turn as 30 km/hr and adding to both sides of northbound lanes.
2. Adding chevrons to the turn.
3. Improving the pedestrian flashing lights for the turn crosswalk to make it safer to cross. The city will examine adding pedestrian lights for the enhanced 48th crosswalk.
4. **Lane Reconfiguration options:**
5. The city presented six options for reconfiguring traffic flow. NHCA believes one of these options will provide a safer intersection for the next decade. Further consultation with the community is required.
6. Two of the six options include traffic lights. Statistics demonstrate that lights are warrantable for this intersection. Further analysis is being undertaken and will be available by November.
7. **Pedestrian and cyclist paths:**
8. Adding a paved path/sidewalk from Egerts Park to the intersection of 48th with North Haven Drive.  Parks supports this and depending on availability of funds will move forward with changes to hard surface a path to the McKnight/Laurie crosswalk. Some residents prefer hard surface path to the North Haven Drive crosswalk.
9. The community has identified that pedestrian access to Highwood has poor visibility at the top of the stairs/ramp from sound barrier and property fences for a distance. A review of changes to have greater visibility is requested for safety.
10. The separate YYC grant for the 48th and North Haven Drive intersection was discussed and has a separate approval process.
11. **Long term improvements**
12. The City presented the full scope of the McKnight long term project. Prioritization analysis for the next 10 year capital transportation plan is proceeding in 2018. City transportation planning has advised that if the project is approved, there may be a review of the functional plan to verify the design parameters.
13. NHCA believes it is too late to request a review of the functional plan and will publicly support continuing with the prioritization without revisions. The city will present a summary of the entire McKnight upgrade to three lanes at the next public meeting to give context.
14. If the project does not make the 2019 cut for the 10 year plan, the community will request revisiting the functional plan to lower the design standard, to reduce impact and to reduce cost. NHCA will also request localized turning lane extensions at 4th Street to help improve traffic flow with low cost.
15. **Safety:**
16. NH is concerned about through traffic safety, not just with our community’s safe access/egress. There was another recent collision with the barrier. Intersection not designed for these flows.
17. Tony Churchill reminded us that the intersection may be perceived as unsafe but the stats do not support this. In terms of collision history this intersection was rated 800 out of 1000 intersections in the City. Not withstanding this data, residents express concern that this does not reflect the stress of dealing with an perceived dangerous intersection that was never designed for these volumes and serves as the primary exit for the community.
18. Concerns were also raised about ensuring emergency vehicle access times during peak hours.
19. **Funding**

Funding for the short term improvements is an annual budget draw. Components will proceed as funding becomes available. Naveed will explain the connection between plans and budget at the next public meeting.

1. **Consultation:**
2. The next public meeting to discuss this is September 7th at 19:00 at the community hall. NHCA will introduce City Transportation and will conclude with an explanation of the consultation process. The city is requested to follow the format of this meeting record.
3. Once the City has the results of the traffic lights analysis, one further meeting with the committee will be required to make recommendations.
4. The recommendations will be presented by the city at the NHCA board meeting on November 16th.
5. The approved recommendations will then be presented at a public meeting in January.