

DATE OF MEETING JUNE 15, 2020

AUTHORED BY JAMIE ROSE, MANAGER, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT BASTION STREET AT COMMERCIAL STREET QUICK WIN UPDATE

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To inform Council of the plans to implement trial changes to the traffic control at the intersection of Bastion Street at Commercial Street.

BACKGROUND

The Downtown Mobility Hub Project (DMHP) commenced in April 2019 with the objective of reviewing existing policy and planning documents, confirming or updating the goals of the community, and exploring new opportunities that were not previously available.

Through the DMHP, Staff have worked to maximize stakeholder engagement by working with residents and other agencies, such as, the Regional District of Nanaimo and the Chamber of Commerce. This project is also taking steps to ensure that downtown will be the cornerstone of a Live, Work, Play neighbourhood with a strong active, sustainable, and accessible transportation system. At the November 4th 2019 Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) meeting, Council received an update presentation on the DMHP which included discussions around some “Quick Wins”; one of which was changes to the intersection of Bastion Street at Commercial Street.

DISCUSSION

Following the November 4th GPC meeting, the project team hosted another engagement session with the community to discuss the next steps of the project. During this session, the project team faced many questions as to the rationale for considering converting the intersection of Bastion Street at Commercial Street from a fully controlled signalized intersection to either a 4-way stop controlled intersection or a 2-way stop controlled intersection with dual marked crosswalks on the other legs. Through these discussions, it was shared that the traffic signal was at the end of its functional life and that we were taking the opportunity to explore scenarios that could provide an equal or higher level of service to the community without the costs of owning and maintaining a signal.

The project team considered these follow-up comments and determined that they further validated the process of piloting a change before proceeding to a final decision. With this in mind, Staff propose to proceed with the implementation of a 2-way stop, with marked crosswalks on the other legs beginning in July. The stop control will be on Bastion, with marked crosswalks on Commercial. The project team acknowledges that this does not provide the

highest level of service for vehicles, but will provide unencumbered pedestrian flow along Commercial Street.

CONCLUSION

Staff will monitor the operation of this new arrangement until October. Once data has been reviewed and a conclusion has been drawn, Staff will return with a recommendation on next steps.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The traffic signal at Bastion Street and Commercial Street is at the end of its functional life and needs to be renewed or removed.
- The project team has identified an opportunity to remove the signal while maintaining or elevating the level of service to the community.
- Public consultation indicated that opinions varied and that a pilot project would be valuable to assess reception to the change.

Submitted by:

Jamie Rose
Manager, Transportation

Concurrence by:

Poul Rosen
Director, Engineering