

May 22, 2009

Dogwood Street Traffic Signal Changes

As part of the City's ongoing commitment to improving traffic operations and safety, several upgrades and operational modifications have been made to the traffic signals along the Dogwood Street corridor from Merecroft Road to 9th Avenue.

Starting on June 2, all traffic signals along this corridor will operate slightly differently.

The first and most significant change is three-phase operation during peak traffic times. Currently these signals operate on a two-phase system, with signals alternating green between north/south traffic and east/west traffic. Three-phase operation is designed to make the operation of these signals safer, especially for left-turns.

With a three-phase setup, the northbound and southbound green phase will alternate. This will allow both the north and southbound traffic to have a separate green straight signal and a protected left-turn arrow, for safer left-turn movements off Dogwood Street. Eastbound and westbound signal operation will remain as it is currently setup.

This three-phase operation runs from 6:00 a.m. to 11 p.m. The three-phase system is similar to the traffic signal operation at the St. Ann's Road / Highway 19A / Shoppers Row intersection.

The second change to the Dogwood Street signals is traffic signal coordination, or the "green wave." Driving the speed limit, a driver will experience all green lights. Signal coordination will only be in effect during the peak periods in the busier direction, i.e. northbound in the morning peak period and southbound in the afternoon peak period.

The third change is emergency vehicle pre-emption. Starting on June 2, emergency vehicles will have the ability to force an early green light or prolong a green light in their direction of travel as they approach a signal. All drivers should obey the standard rules of the road, namely drive with due care and attention and yield right of way to emergency vehicles.

Several physical improvements were also made to these traffic signals. Five new main traffic signal standards, several additional secondary signals as well as a new signal controller at 9th Avenue were installed. To improve visibility, larger green and amber heads, and new yellow backboards were also installed. Additional secondary traffic signals were also added. These are the smaller traffic lights located to the right and left of the travel lanes.

The traveling public will also notice that new street name signs were installed. These larger street name signs are blue and white with the City logo and are a substantial improvement to the older, smaller black and white signs. This should assist in way-finding for both locals and tourists.

We are asking the public to look out for these changes and, as always, to drive safely!

– 30 –

Contact: Gord Brown, Transportation Manager

250-286-5730