



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, July 01, 2003

Study Session

Item -4

Discussion Concerning Advance Warning on US Highway 281 for Signalized Intersections

When drivers enter a community, they expect to be stopped by a traffic signal. Sometimes drivers fail to see the first signal. In urban areas, the pedestrian signal will flash "Don't Walk" prior to a signal change. Many motorists use this "Don't Walk" signal to anticipate the need to stop. The City of Grand Island has worked with the Nebraska Department of Roads to add flashing yellow lights and signs to warn motorists that a signal is red or going to turn red. The flashing yellow lights and signs are in place at intersections on the perimeter of the City. The Transportation Subcommittee of the Comprehensive Plan recommended adding flashing yellow advance signal lights where speeds are at or above 45 MPH approaching a signalized intersection. Two alternatives for improvements are available. The first is re-working the current pedestrian signals for auto recall. This allows the flashing "Don't Walk" to warn the motorist of the impending signal change. The cost for this change is minimal. The second alternative is proceeding with installation of lights and signs at designated intersections. The estimated cost for one set of flashing signals and signs is \$15,000 per direction on a multi-lane roadway like US Highway 281.

Staff Contact: Steve Riehle, City Engineer/Public Works Director



Advance Warning on US Highway 281 for Signalized Intersections



Entering a Community

- ❑ When drivers enter a community, they expect to be stopped by a traffic signal
- ❑ The first signal encountered is sometimes not seen

Don't Walk

- ❑ In urban areas, the pedestrian signal will flash “Don't Walk” prior to a signal change
- ❑ Motorists use the “Don't Walk” to anticipate the need to stop

Signals on the Edge of the Community

The City has worked with the Nebraska Department of Roads to add flashing yellow lights and signs to warn motorists when the signal is red or going to change to red





Existing Locations

- The flashing yellow lights and signs are in place at the following intersections:
 - Southbound US Highway 281 at Capital Ave
 - Northbound and Southbound US Highway 281 at Stolley Park Road
 - Northbound US Highway 281/34 and Husker Highway
 - Northbound Locust at US Highway 34
 - Eastbound and Westbound US Highway 34 at Locust Street
 - All approaches to the intersection of US Highway 281 with Broadwell/Airport Road



Transportation Subcommittee, Comprehensive Plan

The Transportation Subcommittee recommended adding Flashing Yellow Advance signal lights where speeds are over 45 MPH approaching signalized intersections

Additional Intersections

- These intersections could be considered for installation:
 - Southbound US Highway 281 at Old Potash Highway
 - Northbound and Southbound US Highway 281 at Faidley Avenue
 - Northbound and Southbound US Highway 281 at 13th Street
 - Northbound at US Highway 281 at Capital Avenue

Considerations

Alternatives:

- Re-work the current pedestrian signals for auto recall. This allows the flashing “Don’t Walk” to warn the motorist of the impending signal change. The cost for this change is minimal.
- Proceed with installation of lights and signs at designated intersections. The estimated cost for one set of flashing signals and signs is \$15,000 per direction on a multi-lane roadway like US Highway 281