Agenda - Executive Policy Committee - November 12, 2003

REPORTS

Item No. 7 **Funding for Traffic Control Signals at Provencher Boulevard and St. Joseph Street**
File ST-5(35)

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 4, 2003, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works recommended to the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues that an additional appropriation in the amount of $73,000.00 be added to the Provencher Bridges project budget for the permanent installation of traffic control signals at Provencher Boulevard and St. Joseph Street.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 4, 2003, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works did not concur in the administrative recommendation and recommended that the temporary traffic control signals at Provencher Boulevard and St. Joseph Street, which were originally installed to accommodate north St. Boniface traffic during the period when the traffic control signals were removed at Provencher Boulevard and rue Tache (in conjunction with the new Provencher Bridges project), be retained permanently.

Further, the Standing Policy Committee recommended to the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues that an additional appropriation in the amount of $73,000.00 be added to the Provencher Bridges project budget for the permanent installation of traffic control signals at Provencher Boulevard and St. Joseph Street, and submitted its recommendation to the Executive Policy Committee.

On November 4, 2003, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works also considered a communication dated August 12, 2003, submitted by Tom Scott, on behalf of the ZAC Quartier Français - French Quarter Business Improvement Zone Board, with respect to the permanent installation of traffic control signals at Provencher Boulevard and St. Joseph Street. Mr. Scott also submitted a petition purporting to contain the signatures of 600 area residents, which is on file in the City Clerk's Department.

Re: REQUEST FOR PERMANENT INSTALLATION OF THE TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS AT PROVENCHER BOULEVARD AND ST. JOSEPH STREET

For Submission To: STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

Original Report Signed By: J.A.THOMSON, P.Eng., DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Report Date: October 24, 2003

Recommendation:

a) The temporary traffic control signals at Provencher Boulevard and St. Joseph Street, which were originally installed to accommodate north St. Boniface traffic during the period when the traffic control signals were removed at Provencher Boulevard and rue Tache (in conjunction with the new Provencher Bridges project) be removed.

b) If these signals are to remain as a permanent installation, that $73,000 in additional budget be added to the Provencher Bridges project.

REPORT SUMMARY:

Key Issues:

- As part of the public consultation process, temporary traffic control signals were installed at Provencher Boulevard and St. Joseph Street in conjunction with the construction of the new Provencher Bridges and were to be removed following the re-installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Provencher Boulevard and rue Tache.
- The level of vehicular and pedestrian traffic activity at the intersection of Provencher Boulevard and St. Joseph Street prior to the construction of the new Provencher Bridges represents 36% of that which would normally warrant the installation of traffic control signals and is accommodated at a reasonable level of service and safety under stop sign control.
- A permanent set of traffic control signals at Provencher Boulevard and St. Joseph Street is estimated to cost $73,000 to install and $4,000 annually for operation and maintenance. The current Provencher Bridges project does not include funding for this purpose.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS:

General Implications:

- [X] None
- [ ] For the organization overall and/or other departments
- [ ] For the community and/or organizations external to the City
- [ ] Involves a multi-year phase in process

Comments:

Policy Implications:

- [X] No
- [ ] Yes

Comments:

Environmental Implications:

- [X] No
- [ ] Yes

Comments:

Human Resource Implications:

- [X] No
- [ ] Yes

Comments:

Financial Implications:

- [ ] Within approved current and/or capital budget
- [X] Current and/or capital budget adjustment needed

Comment:

If traffic control signals are to be permanently installed, $73,000 is required ($33,000 for installation of permanent underground wiring and concrete bases for the signal poles and $40,000 for the signal equipment that is temporarily on loan from the Traffic Signals Branch's inventory and has not been paid for by the Provencher Bridges project). This additional cost is not contained in the project's budget. In addition, a permanent set of traffic control signals will cost approximately $4,000 per year to maintain and operate.

REPORT

REASON FOR THE REPORT:

The French Quarter BIZ and The Old St. Boniface Residents Association have requested that the temporary traffic control signals at the intersection of Provencher Boulevard and St. Joseph Street be maintained permanently after the construction is completed on the new Provencher Bridges.

HISTORY:

According to the minutes of June 19, 2001 meeting of the Project Advisory Committee on the new Provencher Bridges, in consideration of the French Quarter BIZ's request, temporary traffic control signals were to be installed at the intersection of Provencher Boulevard and St. Joseph Street because the traffic control signals at the intersection of Provencher Boulevard and rue Tache had to be removed during the construction of the new Provencher Bridges. Vehicular traffic normally entering Provencher Boulevard from rue Tache from the north was transferred to St. Joseph Street. To facilitate the temporary increased volume of eastbound left/U-turn and southbound left turn vehicles at St. Joseph Street, the traffic control signals provided a separate signal phase for eastbound left/U-turns and for southbound left turns. Following completion of the new Provencher Bridges Project and the re-installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Provencher Boulevard and rue Tache, vehicular traffic at St. Joseph Street is expected to return to the level of activity prior to the start of the reconstruction project.

DISCUSSION:

When this intersection was stop sign controlled, an average of approximately 1 vehicle per minute entered Provencher Boulevard from St. Joseph Street and an average of 1 pedestrian crossed Provencher Boulevard every 2-1/2 minutes. This level of traffic activity represents 36% of that which would normally warrant the installation of traffic control signals and 22% of that which would normally warrant the installation of a pedestrian corridor. Based upon this level of activity, the permanent installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Provencher Boulevard and St. Joseph Street is not warranted.

The average of 4 collisions per year experienced at this intersection under stop sign control is relatively low for such an intersection and does not justify traffic control signal installation.

Since the traffic control signals were installed on the basis of removal, a permanent installation is estimated to cost $73,000, including $33,000 for installation of permanent concrete bases for the signal poles and $40,000 for the signal equipment that was

temporarily on loan from the Traffic Signals Branch inventory. This additional cost is not contained in the project's budget. Permanent traffic control signals cost approximately $4,000 per year to maintain and operate.

An additional traffic control signal at St. Joseph Street will increase vehicle stops, traffic delays and the potential for rear-end collisions on Provencher Boulevard. Therefore, the permanent installation of unwarranted traffic control signals at the intersection of Provencher Boulevard and St. Joseph Street is not recommended at this time.

Traffic Data:

The traffic characteristics at the intersection of Provencher Boulevard and St. Joseph Street are as follows:

Geometry, Street Classification, Speed Limit:
six-lane divided street on Provencher Boulevard, a Regional Street with 50 km/h speed limit
two-lane roadway on St. Joseph Street, a local collector street with 50 km/h speed limit

11-hour study undertaken between 07:00 and 18:00 on April 6 and 9, 2001 prior to the installation of traffic control signals:
- on Provencher Boulevard - 11,860 eastbound (including 900 left/U-turning vehicles) and 12,630 westbound vehicles
- on St. Joseph Street - 615 southbound vehicles (including 350 right turning vehicles)
- 220 northbound vehicles out of the private approach (including 145 right turning vehicles)
- 268 north-south pedestrian crossings (of whom 220 were delayed less than 10 seconds and
- 11 were delayed greater than 30 seconds)

Three-year Collision History ending December 2000:
- 13 collisions including 4 "right-angle" and 1 "vehicle-pedestrian" collision
- 36% of that which would normally warrant traffic control signals installation
- 22% of that which would normally warrant pedestrian corridor installation

Traffic control signals are located at rue Aulneau one block east and at rue Tache one block west. These adjoining signals create adequate gaps in traffic flows on Provencher Boulevard for motorists and pedestrians on St. Joseph Street to safely cross the street.

During new Provencher Bridge construction With traffic control signals at St. Joseph Street and pedestrian corridor at rue Tache	
Provencher Blvd. at	Reported collisions in 2002
Rue Tache St. Joseph Street Rue Aulneau	10 9 12
Total	**31**
Prior to new Provencher Bridge Project With stop sign control at St. Joseph Street and traffic control signals at rue Tache	
Provencher Blvd. at	Reported collisions in 3 years January 1998-December 2000
Rue Tache St. Joseph Street Rue Aulneau	37 13 18
Total	68
Average per year	**23**

Financial Impact Statement — Date: October 14, 2003

Project Name: — **First Year of Program** 2003

Request For Permanent Installation of the Temporary Traffic Control Signals at Provencher Boulevard and St. Joseph Street

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ 73,000				
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs					
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ 73,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ 73,000				
Debt - External					
Grants (Enter Description Here)					
Reserves, Equity, Surplus					
Other - To Be Determined					
Total Funding	$ 73,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ 73,000				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ 73,000				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ -	$ 11,300	$ 11,300	$ 11,300	$ 11,300
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	3,476	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ (3,476)	$ 11,300	$ 11,300	$ 11,300	$ 11,300
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	-	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ (3,476)	$ 11,300	$ 11,300	$ 11,300	$ 11,300

Additional Comments:

FIS prepared assuming Signals become permanent. If traffic control signals are to be permanently installed, additional capital funding of $73,000 is required ($33,000 for installation of permanent underground wiring and concrete bases for the signal poles and $40,000 for the signal equipment that has been "loaned" to but not paid for by the Provencher Bridges project). This additional cost is not contained in the project's budget. In addition, a permanent set of traffic control signals will cost approximately $4,000 per year to maintain and operate. Incremental revenues shown above are related to Departmental overheads/recoveries.

original approved by Darcy Stewart
Manager of Finance & Administration

Approved by Divisional Accountant Trainee: **X**

In preparing this report, there was consultation with and concurrence by: n/a

This Report Submitted by:

Department:	Public Works	
Division:	Transportation	
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