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Public Works

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MEMORANDUM

Equipment Maintenance
Roadway Maintenance
Collection & Drainage
Building & Grounds
Engineering

To: Mayor and City Council Members

CC: Rich Klimes, Interim City Administrator

FROM: Brian Stineman, Public Works Director

DATE: December 12, 2019

RE: Request to Remove Traffic Signals at Hershey & Main

INTRODUCTION:

At a November 2019 staff traffic discussion the signal condition at the Hershey and Main intersection was brought up by Muscatine Power and Water and a motion was made to investigate removing these signals and replacing them with all-way stop signs.

BACKGROUND/RATIONAL:

After study of Iowa Department of Transportation traffic counts from 2014 and 2018, the results do not support the warrants for traffic lights determined by Institute of Traffic Engineers and the IDOT. The low traffic count rate and the intersection not having a detection system (timed phases only) causes inefficiency in traffic movement. Furthermore, this intersection has equipment which has reached the end of its life and is in need of replacement and will ultimately bear cost to the citizens of Muscatine. City staff concurs with the IDOT study results and of the recommendation that all way stop signs are sufficient to control traffic at this intersection.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the traffic signals at Hershey and Main be removed and replaced with all-way stop signs. MPW will remove the signals and the city will install flashing stop signs at this intersection for a minimum of six months, as is our policy with changes to intersection controls. This will be done as soon as possible upon approval from City Council.

BACKUP INFORMATION:

N/A