

Bruce Johnson

Subject: FW: New Bridge Route2/Route 14 Intersection

From: Möbius <meaubius@gmail.com>
Subject: New Bridge Route2/Route 14 Intersection
Date: August 24, 2019 at 2:54:43 PM EDT
To: Carl Etnier <Carl@etnier.net>

Hello, Carl,

I'm sending this to you in your capacity as Selectboard Member in East Montpelier, hoping you'll bring this up at your next Selectboard meeting. I'm not asking that you read my entire message "into the record," perhaps you can summarise? What I'm about to address is probably a state issue, not a Town of East Montpelier issue, but my guess is that any solution needs to begin at the local level, so that's why I'm writing to you. Here's my concern:

I was traveling easterly from Montpelier to Plainfield last Tuesday (August 20) around 5:00PM, or so, and was caught in an astonishingly long line of traffic, backed up on Route 2 from the new signalised intersection of Routes 2 and 14 South, all the way to Town Hill Road. It took ten or fifteen minutes to reach and pass through the intersection. Initially, I assumed there was construction or an accident. However, there wasn't - just normal rush-hour traffic. There was no such backup of traffic in the lanes travelling from the east on Route 2, or from the south on Route 14.

On Friday (August 23), at roughly the same time of day, I was travelling westerly on Route 2. There was no traffic backed up in the lane I was travelling, and none in the lane from the south on Route 14. However, after passing through the intersection, we encountered a line of cars in the east-bound lane of Route 2, again backed from the traffic light, almost to Town Hill Road.

In the morning there is usually pretty heavy traffic travelling westerly, but it does not seem to back up so much. At most, one might have to wait for one cycle of the traffic signal, before proceeding.

Is this seasonal? Perhaps. If so, then when Fall Foliage, Memorial Day, and other such holidays roll around, afternoon rush hour traffic will be backed up to Codling Road - or who knows? Maybe the Casella landfill?

Perhaps this is to be expected in a situation where there's outdated infrastructure. But as you know, this is a brand new intersection supposedly engineered to handle the traffic (Ha, Ha). If the situation is this bad now, what'll it be like after ten years' of growth in local economy and population? I hate to think.

I have no idea what the solution is, but I do have a modest suggestion. Traffic signals are arguably one the least versatile devices ever invented given their prohibitive cost (I'll bet the price of the traffic signal, alone, for this intersection probably exceeds \$50,000 - maybe \$100,000). Nevertheless, I believe some programmability is built-in (or at least can be added as an afterthought, and shouldn't add more than another 25 Grand to the price).

If either reprogramming or add-on is an option, I would suggest that the duty cycle be altered, depending on the time of day. i.e., during the morning rush hour, the duty cycle for the west-bound lane for Route 2 should probably be increased by 50 to 75 percent over the current, and during the *evening* rush hour, the duty cycle for the east-bound lane should be doubled, tripled, or perhaps even quadrupled over the current.

Since the signal change itself takes a significant portion of the cycle, allowing the the fullest lane to empty out, or nearly empty out before changing the signal, would save a lot of time for travellers, and might cut down on frustration, incidents of road rage, and angry communications to the local Authorities. ;-)

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Steven

Sent from my Fire-breathing Mutant Ninja Howler Monkey