



MEMORANDUM

TO: Property Owners and Residents of the 200 Block of Canal Street and of the Adjacent Neighborhood
FROM: Doug Fawcett, Assistant City Manager
DATE: February 15, 2017
SUBJECT: Proposed Change in Traffic Pattern on the 200 Block of Canal Street

The City of Fredericksburg recently performed a study of certain traffic signals to determine if the traffic volumes and patterns at the intersections where the signals are located meet current standards for the presence of a signal at the intersection. This study was performed, in part, because the signal equipment at these intersections is antiquated and the City needs to either decommission the signal and establish an alternate method of traffic control at the intersection or invest in new signal equipment for the intersection at considerable cost (\$150,000 or more, depending on the location.)

One of the intersections studied was the intersection of **Princess Anne Street and Canal Street**. The traffic engineering consultant engaged by the City to perform the study has concluded that this intersection does NOT meet current standards for a traffic signal and has recommended that the existing signal be decommissioned and an alternate method of traffic control be established at the intersection. City staff has reviewed the consultant's report and concurs with its findings.

The Fredericksburg City Council held a public hearing on the decommissioning of this signal and four others at the Council's January 10 meeting. After the public hearing, the Council authorized staff to proceed with the decommissioning of the signals. This work will begin late March/early April, but it will likely be at least a month later before the signal at Princess Anne and Canal streets will be removed.

The consultant's recommendation for establishing an alternate method of traffic control at this intersection after removal of the signal is as follows:

- Permit the traffic on Princess Anne Street to flow unimpeded;
- Place a Stop sign on Canal Street east bound (traffic moving toward the river from the Dorothy Hart Community Center) at Princess Anne Street; and
- **Convert the 200 block of Canal Street to one way traffic east bound (toward Caroline Street.)**

Proposed Change in Traffic Pattern on the 200 Block of Canal Street
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It is to discuss in more detail this last recommended action that I am writing this memo. The primary reason for the recommended change to one way traffic on this block is that, without a signal controlling traffic at the Princess Anne/Canal intersection, there is insufficient sight distance for motorists arriving at the intersection on Canal Street west bound to see traffic approaching on Princess Anne Street prior to either turning onto Princess Anne or crossing Princess Anne to continue on Canal. The sight distance for someone sitting on Canal Street and looking right for traffic approaching on Princess Anne is impeded by a large utility pole with guy wires and, quite frequently, by parked cars. The City could possibly eliminate the interference with the driver's view caused by parked cars, but it would need to prohibit parking for a significance distance up the block on Princess Anne Street to accomplish that. Even if that were done, the obstruction to the view caused by the utility pole would remain.

The 200 block of Canal Street is currently the only block with two way traffic on the streets between Princess Anne Street and Caroline Street from George Street in the downtown area to Ford Street to the north. Converting the 200 block of Canal Street to one way traffic toward the river will be consistent with the alternating direction one way streets in this eight block area. (See attached map.)

On street parking is currently permitted on the north side only of the 200 block of Canal Street. City staff has reviewed the situation and has concluded that this should not change with the conversion off the block to one way traffic east bound. (The only difference after the traffic pattern change is that drivers will park facing east instead of west, as is currently the case.)

The Fredericksburg City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed conversion of the traffic pattern on the 200 block of Canal Street to one way traffic east bound on Tuesday, February 28 at 7:30pm in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 715 Princess Anne Street. The Council may take action on the proposed conversion later in the meeting.

If you wish to voice your opinion on the proposed change in the traffic pattern, either in support or in opposition, you should plan to attend the public hearing. You do not need to make prior arrangements to speak at the hearing. There is a five minute time limit for each speaker.

The Council Chambers is accessible to persons with disabilities. To arrange for interpretive services for the deaf, you must notify Tonya B. Lacey, Clerk of Council, City Hall Suite 208, 715 Princess Anne Street, 540-372-1010, by Wednesday, February 22, 2017.

If you have questions about this matter or if you wish to voice your opinion but will be unable to attend the January 28 public hearing, please contact me by no later than that day at 540-372-1023 or at dfawcett@fredericksburgva.gov .

