



Sam Adams
Commissioner

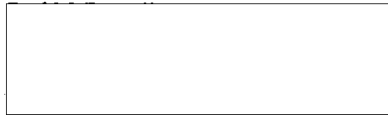
November 19, 2008

Received

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Facility Services

Susan D. Keil
Director



Dear



I am writing to inform you that the Portland Office of Transportation plans a traffic control change at the intersection of SE Water Avenue and SE Caruthers Street.

In 2002, stop signs were installed on the west and east approaches to the intersection resulting in an all-way stop intersection. Prior to this change, there was only a stop sign for the SE Water approach.

Since 2002, PDOT has received numerous complaints from the public about this intersection. Some citizens complain that there is poor compliance with the stop signs from bicyclists and motorists. Others complain that the stop signs seem unnecessary due to adequate visibility at the intersection for the other streets.

PDOT staff investigated conditions at the intersection and found that the concerns are valid. There is a high level of non-compliance of the stop signs at this intersection. However, because of adequate visibility at the intersection, the non-compliance of the stop signs has not translated into any crash activity.

The intersection was observed on multiple occasions and video monitoring completed. In each evaluation, there was non-compliance of the stop signs on Caruthers from all types of roadway users. Very poor compliance occurred in all travel directions, both for turning movements between Caruthers and Water as well as entry and exit from the driveways at this intersection. Non-compliance was observed for bicyclists, car drivers, small truck drivers, and large truck drivers.

Despite the lack of compliance with the Stop Sign control, there have been no reported crashes since the all-way stop sign was installed in 2002. Our record indicated that here have been no reported crashes at this location for at least 15 years. Based on recent review of the traffic operations, and the pre- and post- stop sign crash history at SE Water Avenue and SE Caruthers Street, it is my conclusion that a three-way stop control is not warranted at the intersection.



In addition to removing the stop signs on SE Caruthers Street at the intersection with SE Water Avenue, there will be some other changes. These will include new striping installed through the intersection to increase awareness of westbound bicycle traffic, a new warning sign that will inform right turning vehicles to yield to bicyclists who are traveling in the bicycle lane, and a new warning sign on Water that will warn that cross traffic does not stop.

If you have any questions, please contact Greg Raisman in Traffic Operations for assistance. His phone number is (503) 823-1052 or you can contact him by email at greg.raisman@pdxtrans.org.

Thank you.

Rob Burchfield, P.E.
City Traffic Engineer

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Employer