



**DATE:** April 13, 2022

**TO:** Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation (CACT)

**FROM:** Jeffrey Sikes, Senior Planner

**SUBJECT:** Great Falls Street/Lincoln Ave Pedestrian Safety at Lincoln Park

The City Manager is requesting the Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation (CACT) to review and approve the use of Neighborhood Traffic Calming (NTC) funds for a staff administrative solution to improve pedestrian safety on Great Falls St and Lincoln Ave adjacent to Lincoln Park. Staff proposes to install Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons at the marked mid-block crosswalks on Great Falls St at Dorchester St.

**Background:** Pedestrian safety at the intersection of Great Falls St and Lincoln Ave has been a concern of nearby residents for quite some time. As the signalized intersection of two high-volume streets, the intersection has limited pedestrian crossing options, with painted crosswalks and pedestrian signals at only two of the four crossings. Lincoln Park at the north west corner of the intersection is a popular destination for neighborhood children and parents.

High traffic volumes, the speed of vehicles, heavy trucks and the failure of traffic to yield to pedestrians are frequent complaints. In 2017, Light Solutions traffic calming measures were installed on Lincoln Ave from N West St to the Arlington County line. Pedestrian refuge islands were also installed at two intersections on Lincoln Ave to make crossing safer. A painted crosswalk, curb ramps and pedestrian warning signs were installed mid-block on Great Falls St at Dorchester St.

**Staff Administrative Solution:** Staff proposes to install a set of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) and curb extensions at the existing mid-block crosswalk on Great Falls Street at Dorchester St.

A RRFB is a pedestrian activated enhancement used in combination with pedestrian warning signs to improve safety at uncontrolled crosswalks. The device includes two rectangular shaped yellow indicators that flash at high frequency when actuated. There are currently two pairs of RRFB's in the City located on N West St at N Oak St and on W Annandale Rd adjacent to Big Chimney Park.

RRFB's are placed on both sides of a crosswalk below the pedestrian crossing sign and above the arrow indication pointing at the crossing. The flashing pattern can be activated with pushbuttons and should be unlit when not activated. The proposed RRFB locations on Great Falls St will require the construction of curb extensions for the placement of the pedestal pole to

not obstruct the sidewalk. Because of current roadway conditions a larger curb extension is required for the Dorchester St side of the intersection.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has issued interim approval for the use of RRFB's. State and local agencies must request and receive permission from FHWA before localities can use RRFB's.

**Project Funding:** Staff proposes that funding from the Neighborhood Traffic Calming NTC Program be used to fund the RRFB project. Because of the rapid rise in equipment and labor costs, accurate costs are difficult to predict, but staff estimates that it may cost as much as \$125,000 to fund this project.

**Timing of Installation:** Assuming approval by the CACT, staff would begin the procurement process and to write the FHWA requesting interim approval for the two sets of RRFB's. It is difficult to know how long it will take to receive the equipment from a vendor, but staff will share this information with the neighborhood when it becomes available.

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