



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Public Works and Transportation Committee **DATE:** February 22, 2000
FROM: Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
 Manager, Transportation **FILE:** 6450-08
**RE: **INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT MINORU BOULEVARD AND
 ELMBRIDGE WAY - FOLLOW-UP REPORT****

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the median opening on Minoru Boulevard at Firbridge Way be retained at this time, as concluded in the attached report from the Manager of Transportation regarding the traffic conditions resulting from the recent improvements at the intersection of Minoru Boulevard and Elmbriage Way.
2. That staff continue to monitor the operation of the intersection of Minoru Boulevard and Firbridge Way and report back to Council should circumstances require that further actions be taken on this matter.

Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
Manager, Transportation

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CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER

STAFF REPORTORIGIN

As part of the implementation of the South Loop Road (as identified in the City Centre Transportation Plan), staff presented a report on the signalization and intersection improvements at Minoru Boulevard and Elmbridge Way to the September 28, 1998 Regular Council Meeting. At that meeting, Council endorsed the overall functional design of the intersection including traffic signal installation, road widening, driveway relocations, etc. Council also passed the following resolution concerning an element of the design, which called for the closure of the median on Minoru Boulevard at Firbridge Way:

"That no action be taken by staff to close the median at the intersection of Firbridge Way and Minoru Boulevard until after the completion of a trial period had been undertaken to review traffic movements in the area following the signalization of the Minoru Boulevard/Elmbridge Way intersection."

The Minoru Boulevard and Elmbridge Way intersection improvement project was completed in Summer, 1999. Since then, staff have reviewed the traffic movements and circulation patterns in the area. This report presents the findings of a review of the traffic conditions on Minoru Boulevard as a result of the intersection improvements. A recommendation on the issue of the requirement for closing the Firbridge Way median opening is also presented for Council's consideration.

ANALYSIS**1. Monitoring of Traffic Conditions**

A review of the traffic conditions on Minoru Boulevard at Elmbridge Way and at Firbridge Way before and after the completion of this intersection improvement project was undertaken. The result of the traffic monitoring efforts reveals that in the peak hour, the southbound and northbound traffic volumes have increased by 55% and 15% respectively. The following table summarizes the traffic counts at the Minoru Boulevard and Elmbridge Way intersection.

Traffic Volumes - Minoru Boulevard Before and After the Improvements at the Elmbridge Way Intersection

Date Traffic Count Taken	PM Peak Hour Volumes on Minoru Boulevard at Elmbridge Way	
	Northbound	Southbound
April, 1998	674 vehicles/hour	542 vehicles/hour
February, 2000	776 vehicles/hour (+15%)	841 vehicles/hour (+55%)

2. Rationale for Retaining the Firbridge Way Median Opening

The increase in traffic volumes on Minoru Boulevard suggests that the South Loop Road is being used as an effective bypass to No. 3 Road. Despite the increase in traffic volumes along this section of Minoru Boulevard, staff have observed that traffic conflicts and volumes are not considered to be problematic at the Firbridge Way median opening. Therefore, staff have concluded that it would be beneficial for the median at the intersection of Firbridge Way and Minoru Boulevard to be kept open. The retention of all-directional movements at this location is recommended for these reasons:

- This median opening allows traffic to make full use of the connection between Minoru Boulevard and No. 3 Road via Firbridge Way which results in improved circulation within this area of the City Centre;
- The Firbridge Way route, with the median break at Minoru Boulevard, will provide a detour route for local traffic during the upcoming construction of the #98 B-Line project on No. 3 Road; and
- The elimination of the No. 3 Road Frontage Road after the opening of the #98 B-Line would result in more reliance on Minoru Boulevard to function as the main route for accessing the existing developments along Firbridge Way. The median break at Firbridge Way will help in maintaining access to developments in the area.

3. Further Monitoring Requirement

Staff will continue to monitor the traffic conditions along this section of Minoru Boulevard, particularly the traffic flow at the Firbridge Way median opening, to identify if other traffic management measures are required. A further report will be submitted to Council should circumstances require that other actions be taken.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None to the City at this time.

CONCLUSION

The traffic review conducted by staff reveals that the usage of the section of Minoru Boulevard between Lansdowne Road and Westminster Highway has increased since the completion of the Minoru Boulevard/Elmbridge Way intersection improvement project. Monitoring of the traffic movements at the Firbridge Way median opening has not shown any particular operational concerns. It is therefore recommended that the Firbridge Way/Minoru Boulevard median be kept open to enhance traffic circulation in the City Centre, to provide a detour route during #98 B-Line construction, and to maintain adequate access to area businesses.

Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Senior Transportation Engineer