

## **Westbound Protected Left Turn Phase – Lasalle Boulevard Pilot Project Update**

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Prepared by:	Mohammad Nabipour Linear Infrastructure Services
Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Infrastructure

### **Report Summary**

This report provides an update on the protected left turn phase pilot project on Lasalle Boulevard at the Lasalle Court Mall in the westbound direction.

### **Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans**

This report refers to operational matters.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

### **Background**

On August 14, 2023, the Operations Committee passed resolution OP2023-27 directing City staff to conduct a traffic study of the intersection at 901 Lasalle Boulevard and to present the study results along with an option for installing an advanced green traffic signal for the westbound left-turning lane. City staff conducted a traffic count and reviewed the collision history, concluding that a westbound advanced left-turn phase is not warranted at this intersection.

At the March 25, 2024, Operations Committee meeting, resolution OP2024-05 was passed which directed staff to proceed with installing the advanced green left turn signal as a two year pilot project. The resolution cited that the building at 901 Lasalle Boulevard houses approximately 330 residents, 80% of whom are seniors, and that traffic has increased due to senior support services.

The resolution also directed staff to provide annual update reports throughout the duration of the pilot project.

The westbound advanced green left-turn signal was subsequently installed in late May 2024.

## Operational Analysis

Prior to the installation of the advanced left-turn signal, staff conducted a traffic count in early May 2024 to assess pre-installation westbound left-turn patterns during the afternoon peak hour. During this period, a total of nine (9) westbound vehicles completed a left turn. For comparison, 98 eastbound vehicles turned left at the same intersection during the same peak hour.

Previous traffic studies completed in 2023 and 2015 recorded 11 and 10 westbound left-turning vehicles, respectively. These results demonstrate that westbound left-turn volumes remained consistently low and essentially unchanged since 2015.

Staff also reviewed the collision history from January 2018 to December 2025 and confirmed that no collisions related to the westbound left-turn movement occurred either before or after the installation of the advanced left-turn signal.

## Delay Assessment/Cost Analysis/Environmental Impact

In 2025, as part of the City's ongoing Traffic Signal Renewal Project, staff updated signal coordination along the entire Lasalle Boulevard corridor. This work was completed in late 2025 and resulted in significant corridor travel time improvements.

As noted in the Ontario Ministry of Transportation's *Book 12 – Traffic Signals*, installing a traffic signal or signal phase that is not warranted can negatively affect overall traffic operations by increasing intersection delay, contributing to unnecessary vehicle idling, and resulting in increased fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

To properly assess these potential impacts arising from the advanced westbound left-turn signal, staff deferred additional data collection until the coordination updates were completed.

Preliminary traffic software modeling indicates that while the advanced left-turn phase reduced delay for westbound left-turning vehicles, overall intersection performance declined as a result of the added phase.

With the updated corridor coordination now in place, staff will undertake new traffic studies in 2026 to evaluate the real-world impact of the westbound advanced left-turn signal on both intersection and corridor performance.

## Next Steps

Staff will conduct updated traffic studies in 2026 and will continue to monitor the intersection's performance. A follow-up report will be provided in 2027 summarizing study results, evaluating the pilot project, and presenting final recommendations.

## Resources Cited

Protected Left Turn Phase – Lasalle Boulevard at 901 Lasalle Boulevard/Lasalle Court Mall Westbound, City of Greater Sudbury, Accessed Online: <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=52101>