



Office of the Town Manager

Frank Cassidy

STAFF REPORT

Warrenton Town Council

Carter Nevill, Mayor

Heather Sutphin, Ward 1

William Semple, Ward 2

Brett Hamby, Ward 3

James Hartman, Ward 4 Vice Mayor

Eric Gagnon, Ward 5

Paul Mooney, At Large

David McGuire, At Large

Council Meeting Date:	May 14 th , 2024
Agenda Title:	Courthouse Square Intersection
Requested Action:	Support to convert Courthouse Square to a 3-way stop
Department / Agency Lead:	Public Works
Staff Lead:	Michael Wharton, Project Coordinator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Town of Warrenton conducted a traffic study at the Courthouse intersection from March 18, 2024, to March 22, 2024. The current intersection was converted to a 3-way stop intersection. During the study, Town staff monitored various intersections to mitigate any issue.

On March 20th, Town staff removed the group II channelizing device and no left turn sign at Winchester and Alexandria Pike intersection. This was to test if any stacking would impact the flow of traffic in all directions.

BACKGROUND

On July 11, 2023, Town Staff started working on ideas to improve the Courthouse Square intersection for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The staff came up with four options listed below:

- Close left turning lanes on Alexandria Pike.
- Close left turning lanes on Alexandria Pike and Waterloo Street.
- Convert the intersection into a 3-way stop.
- Create a roundabout scenario using Diagonal Street.

In September of 2023, staff started planning for the implementation of no left turns from Alexandria Pike onto Main Street and from Waterloo Street onto Alexandria Pike. Then the plan was sketched into a two-phase approach. The first week the left turn would be eliminated from Alexandria Pike onto Main Street. Then the following week, the left turning lane from Waterloo Street onto Alexandria Pike would be closed. The Project Coordinator sent the plan to Fauquier County Transportation and Fauquier County Emergency Management for review and comments. During this review, it was determined the left turning lane on Waterloo Street was an emergency route and could not be closed. Staff decided to move forward with the closure of the left turning lane from Alexandria Pike onto Main Street and eliminate the closure of Waterloo Street left turning lane.

Results of Study:

The following observations were recorded during the study:

- There was no increase in traffic flow on Lee Street and Horner Street, and no delays observed along either corridor.
- Between 4 PM and 5 PM, additional turning movement from Waterloo Street onto Ashby Street caused some stacking of 3 to 4 cars deep.
- Around 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM, traffic would stack 3 to 4 cars on Alexandria Pike.
- No delays/backups were observed on Winchester Street.
- This temporary traffic pattern moved traffic more efficiently than the existing layout.
- Speeds on Main Street and Waterloo Street were reduced.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends making the Courthouse Square intersection a permanent 3-way stop intersection. This plan would involve installing additional pavement markings, 3 stop signs, and delineator markers at locations noted on the attached sketch.

Service Level/Policy Impact

None

Fiscal Impact

Staff estimates to implement this new pattern would cost approximately \$8,000.00.

Legal Impact

None

ATTACHMENTS

1. Courthouse Square Traffic Study Report (March 2024)
2. Proposed Traffic Pattern