



The Town of Warrenton
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Courthouse Square Traffic Study Report

March 2024



➤ **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. The plan was scheduled for week of January 9, 2024

➤ **TRAFFIC STUDY:**

On January 9, 2024 at 9:00 am, Town staff set up the traffic control devices to close the left turning lanes on Alexandria Pike and the right lane on Winchester Street. During the study, staff monitored various intersections to mitigate any issues. On January 12, 2024 at 2:00 pm, the intersection was restored to it's original condition.

○ **Results of Study:**

- Increased traffic flow on Lee Street and Horner Street, but no delays observed along either corridor.

- During 4pm to 5pm, additional turning movement from Waterloo Street onto Ashby Street caused some stacking of 3 to 4 cars deep.
- No delays/backups observed on Winchester Street
- This temporary traffic pattern moved traffic better than the original condition.
- Negative- pattern could deter traffic away from Main Street
- Opinion from Fauquier County Transportation-
 - Likes – we do like “no left” on Main St due to navigating the traffic in that area. However, we did need to get some buses back to Main St which involved a right on Waterloo St; left on Marshall St; right on Lee St; right on Pelham St; right on Waterloo St to be able to head back to Main St and travel toward 5th St.
 - Dislikes – “no left” on Winchester St. This caused us to go to John E. Mann; left on Winchester St; right on Alexandria Pike; right on Waterloo to capture the students between John E. Mann & Diagonal St.
- **Public Opinion:**
 - Support:
 - 82% Disagree
 - 15% Agree
 - 3% No Opinion
 - Suggestions:
 - 16% 3-Way Stop
 - 12% Change yield sign to stop at Alexandria Pike
 - 5% Roundabout
 - 67% No Suggestion

➤ **NEXT TRAFFIC STUDY:**

Staff plans to convert the Courthouse Square intersection into a 3-way stop on the week of March 18, 2024. The study will last until March 22, 2024.