

## **Congress Street Intersection Modifications Portland, Maine**

**Date:** October 25, 2019  
**Subject:** Intersection Modifications  
Saint John Street / Congress Street & Congress Street / Valley Street  
**To:** City of Portland, Maine Medical Center (MMC)  
**From:** Randy Dunton, Gorrill Palmer (JN 2866.01)

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### **Introduction:**

As part of the approval for the MMC Expansion, two conditions were identified for the two signalized intersections of Congress Street / Valley Street and Congress Street / Saint John Street. Those conditions are as follows:

- “15. Prior to issuance of a demolition permit for the Gilman Garage, the applicant shall:**
- i. Submit a plan for traffic signal changes at Congress Street/St. John Street that would allow for concurrent pedestrian phasing for review and approval by the Department of Public Works. The applicant shall implement such a plan following approval;*
  - ii. Submit a plan for the Congress Street/Valley Street intersection under a traffic signal removal scenario, including recommendations that provide for safe pedestrian movements, for review and approval by the Department of Public Works, and coordinate with MaineDOT on traffic signal removal. The applicant shall implement such a plan following approval. If MaineDOT does not approve of the removal, the applicant shall submit a plan for traffic signal equipment modifications at the Congress Street/Valley Street intersection to allow for concurrent pedestrian phasing at Congress Street/St. John Street for review and approval by the Department of Public Works. The applicant shall implement such a plan following approval; and”*

The two conditions identified above were recently discussed in more detail with Mr. Jeremiah Bartlett, Transportation Systems Engineer for City of Portland. Based on the two conditions and the discussions with Mr. Bartlett, we offer the following:

### **Response to Conditions:**

Although listed as two separate conditions, they are linked to each other. Based on discussions with Mr. Bartlett, the City is requesting a procedure that can be followed to accomplish the above conditions of approval. The following is a step by step procedure:



1. Removal of the traffic signal at Congress St / Valley Street - This intersection is currently signalized and shares a traffic controller with the adjacent nearby signalized intersection at Congress Street / Saint John Street. This intersection has been reviewed and does not meet the criteria for signalization. The MaineDOT has already given their approval for removal of the signal provided it is accomplished based on guidance provided in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Because the signal is being removed and pedestrian signals will no longer be available, the City has requested a plan (15.ii.) to accommodate pedestrians. That plan is attached. Please note that because the MaineDOT has already approved removal of the signal, the second half of condition 15.ii. is no longer applicable.
2. Once Task 1 is completed, the traffic cabinet shall be reconfigured / rewired to allow for additional pedestrian phases at the Congress Street / Saint John Street intersection.
3. Remove the existing exclusive pedestrian phasing at the Congress Street / Saint John Street intersection.
4. Program into the controller concurrent pedestrian phasing. "Walk" and Pedestrian Clearance times shall be calculated per ITE formulas and used in the new timing / phasing. Maximum green times shall be adjusted as needed to be long enough to accommodate the needed pedestrian "Walk" and clearance times in addition to a 5 second leading pedestrian interval (LPI). The final timing and phasing shall be approved by the City.
5. Pedestrian scale signs shall be erected on the pedestal poles informing pedestrians that the pedestrian phasing has changed. The final sign wording shall be approved by the City prior to erecting.