



Public Works

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To:
City Manager Jason R. Rogers
City of Commerce City
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Update on Signalization at Chambers Road Intersections

117th Avenue and Chambers Road Determination and Next Steps

After further analysis and application of updated MUTCD guidance and engineering judgment, staff has determined that a traffic signal at 117th and Chambers will increase public safety and improve traffic operations.

A permanent mast arm signal will be installed. The design process will be handled by an outside consultant and a work order has been executed. The design will consider the future configuration of Chambers Road, as informed by the Chambers Road widening project to ensure compatibility and efficiency.

Design work is scheduled for completion by the end of October 2025. Once complete, the City will issue a request for bids for the construction of both traffic signals. A separate bid package will also be advertised to procure materials, including signal poles. Following the award, delivery of materials is expected to take approximately ten weeks.

Staff anticipates the design and construction of this signal to cost around \$850,000.

Heartland Drive and Chambers Road Update

As previously communicated with City Council, a permanent mast arm signal will be installed. The design process will be handled by the consultant that is designing the larger Chambers Road widening project. The design will consider the future configuration of Chambers Road, as informed by the Chambers Road widening project to ensure compatibility and efficiency.

Design work is scheduled for completion by the end of October 2025. Once complete, the City will issue a request for bids for the construction of both traffic signals. A separate bid package will also be advertised to procure materials, including signal poles. Following the award, delivery of materials is expected to take approximately ten weeks.

Staff anticipates the design and construction of this signal to cost around \$850,000.

Staff Recommendation to Adopt the 11th Edition MUTCD and the 4th Edition AASHTO as Local Policy

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the 11th edition of the MUTCD as local policy to support responsible, safety-driven traffic control decisions. While the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has not yet adopted the new edition, the Department of Transportation has accepted the changes. Staff anticipates CDOT will adopt the 11th edition later this year.

October 20, staff will present an ordinance for Council consideration to formally adopt the 11th edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) as City policy. The new edition introduces important updates related to the evaluation of traffic control signals:

- While an engineering study remains required before signal installation, the 11th edition explicitly allows professional engineering judgment to guide decisions.
- Satisfying signal warrants continues to be an important factor, but it is no longer the sole or overriding factor in determining whether a signal is appropriate to improve the safety of any given intersection.
- Adopting the latest edition provides legal clarity and protection for licensed engineers making decisions in the interest of public safety and traffic operations.

By adopting the updated MUTCD, we will enable staff to utilize their professional engineering judgement and apply modern standards to better address the unique needs and safety concerns at specific intersections throughout the City. An engineering study of traffic conditions, pedestrian characteristics, and physical characteristics of any given intersection will still be performed and a thorough review by licensed engineers completed before a traffic control signal is recommended for installation.

Also on October 20, staff will present an ordinance for Council consideration to formally adopt the 4th edition of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Roadside Design Guides. By adopting the updated AASHTO document, we will further enable staff to make modern and sound roadside design decisions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Jenna Hahn

Jenna Hahn, Director of Public Works
City of Commerce City