



## Memorandum

**Memorandum No:** 21-117

**Date:** December 6, 2021

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

**From:** Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Lagerbloom".

**Re:** Traffic Control Devices in the City of Fort Lauderdale

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In 1985 the City and Broward County entered into a Traffic Engineering Agreement where the City agreed to transfer the functions and duties of traffic engineering to the County. All signs, signals and pavement marking placements are to be in conformance with the Federal Highway Administration publication entitled Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and managed by Broward County. The MUTCD sets the minimum standards and provides guidance to ensure uniformity of traffic control devices across the nation.

An all-way stop control (AWSC), also known as a 4-way stop, is a countermeasure that can be used to help alleviate crash problems at intersections with a pattern of high severity frontal impact crashes. It is important to note, the MUTCD states "STOP signs should not be used for speed control." The MUTCD states that the total volume of cars entering the intersection must be at least 500 vehicles per hour for eight hours, with the minor street comprising 40% of the total volumes. Another justification for an all-way stop may be a crash problem, as evidenced by the occurrence of five or more crashes within a 12-month period, which can be improved by an all-way stop.

When an AWSC request is submitted to the City, City staff reviews the request and coordinates with Broward County Traffic Engineering Division (BCTED) to conduct a speed and volume study. Once conducted, the study determines if the AWSC is warranted or not. Many times, the volumes do not reach the threshold to warrant an AWSC. If an AWSC is warranted, the City Commission would pass a resolution, which would be forwarded to Broward County and the AWSC is later installed. Pavement markings, traffic signs, and other responsibilities that were transferred to Broward County require City Commission approved resolutions.

Over time, the City has unilaterally installed traffic control devices, pavement markings, and signage without the approval or warranting from BCTED. When these installations are identified by Broward County, sometimes years after the fact, the devices are removed from the right-of-way. The City then needs to warrant the traffic control device and provide City Commission approval for the signage to be reinstalled. Over the past

year, the City Commission has approved ten resolutions to reinstall or replace signage that did not have Commission approval.

City staff are scheduled to meet with Broward County staff to discuss updating the 1985 agreement and talk through the challenges of existing unwarranted/unapproved devices. It is likely that unwarranted/unapproved AWSC, traffic signage, and pavement markings will be removed or transferred to the City for maintenance responsibilities.

**Rio Vista Example: SE 7<sup>th</sup> Street at SE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

In April 2019, a request for a new stop sign at the intersection of SE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and SE 7<sup>th</sup> Street was submitted to Broward County for an engineering review. The review was to determine if the traffic control signage placement is warranted and in conformance with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and State standards. The traffic volume data for all approaches to the intersection were collected for a consecutive 24-hour period commencing May 14, 2019. The data showed that there were no hours in which the MUTCD minimum vehicular volume requirements were met. Crash records from the Fort Lauderdale Police Department show no crashes were reported at the intersection during the 24-month period of May 20, 2019 to May 20, 2021. Signal Four Analytics (Signal Four), a crash records database established by the University of Florida GeoPlan Center, also indicates that no crashes were reported during that period. Therefore, the MUTCD volume or crash warrant requirements were not met.

In March 2020, at the direction of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, a “temporary” all-way stop was installed at this intersection during a major Public Works piping project as a part of a Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan set up in the vicinity.

In June 2020, The Rio Vista Civic Association requested a second review of the intersection that was submitted to BCTED. Due to COVID-19, BCTED did not conduct traffic studies until early 2021.

In April 2021, a second request was submitted to BCTED and traffic volume data for all approaches to the intersection were collected for a consecutive 24-hour period commencing June 3, 2021. The data revealed there were no hours in which the MUTCD minimum vehicular volume requirements were met. The Fort Lauderdale Police Department responded to us that no crashes were reported at the intersection during the 24-month period of June 1, 2019 to June 1, 2021. Signal Four also indicates that no crashes were reported during that period. Therefore, the MUTCD crash warrant requirement was not met.

During both reviews of the intersection, neither the volumetric nor the crash warrants are satisfied. Therefore, BCTED noted that the data collected did not meet the minimum criteria to warrant the installation of AWSC at the intersection of SE 7 Street and SE 11 Avenue.

BCTED conducted field reviews on April 13, 2021 and June 7, 2021 and did not observe any construction work in the vicinity of the studied intersection. As such, the eastbound and westbound stop signs should have been removed after the completion of the construction work and ending of the temporary MOT. In July 2021, BCTED requested that the City remove the signage, as previous data shows that the intersection did not meet the minimum criteria and noted that the installation of the signage is a violation of the Transportation Engineering Agreement and does not meet the minimum requirements of the Federal Highway Administration MUTCD criteria. The signs were removed the week of November 19, 2021, and the Rio Vista Civic Association was informed of the sign removal and were provided with copies of the two studies that were completed.

If you have questions, or need further information on this initiative, please contact Ben Rogers, Director of Transportation and Mobility, at [brogers@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:brogers@fortlauderdale.gov).

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