



FRONT PORCH FORUM: No Right on Red at Pine St. and Lakeside Ave

Thank you for sharing your concerns related to the Champlain Parkway Project.

The design of the Lakeside and Pine Street intersection was based on an exclusive pedestrian phase along with a variety of vehicle type usage which included an increased volume of tractor trailers along with passenger vehicles. This means that stop bar locations and right turn on red restrictions were designed with these considerations for the safety of all users pedestrian, bicyclists and motorists.

When there is an exclusive pedestrian phase, meaning pedestrians have specified time to cross in all directions, all vehicles have a red signal. It is recommended for pedestrian and bicycle safety to consider a right turn restriction during this phase. Additionally with the geometry of the intersection, the specific turn you are inquiring requires tractor trailers to swing wide into the intersection which puts them in conflict with north bound vehicles on Pine Street. These were a couple of the primary safety considerations that lead to the no right on red design.

The design and turn restrictions were developed from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards. The MUTCD is the national standards for guidance on traffic signals, signage, pavement markings and issued by the US Federal Highway Administration which is a requirement for the Champlain Parkway Project to be followed for this federally funded project.

We appreciate residents taking the time to report these issues and provide detailed observations.

Best,

The Champlain Parkway Project Team



FRONT PORCH FORUM COMMENTS:

I would dearly love to hear from someone in the DPW the reasoning behind not allowing right turns on red at the three way intersection of Pine Street and Lakeside Avenue. It makes no sense. That intersection is slow enough with the stop light, but not allowing right hand turns from Pine Street to Lakeside Ave. while Lakeside has the green light is just plain stupid. That intersection is going to become a lot more congested once the Parkway is fully opened to traffic. I would think that anything that helps to safely speed traffic through it would be welcomed.

So, come on, DPW. Let the rest of in on why Right on Red is banned at that intersection. Inquiring minds want to know.

The following is part of the reply I received on Thursday from an engineer at the Burlington Department of Public Works. My thanks to him for his timely and well explained response to my query and to the whole Department for all the good work they do for the people of Burlington, no matter how crummy the weather happens to be. And my sincere apologies for referring to the design of that intersection as stupid.

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btw: If one goes around expecting to be ignored by other people, the odds are good that you will be.

This is a copy of a note I just sent to the DPW. I never got an answer to my last forum post. Maybe they'll answer this one.

I would very much like to know the reasoning behind not allowing right on red at the intersection of Pine Street and Lakeside Avenue. It is a simple T intersection with unimpeded sight lines for drivers turning west off of Pine Street on to Lakeside Ave. or drivers turning south off of Lakeside Ave. on to Pine Street. Clogging up that intersection by forbidding right on red turns makes no sense at all.