



FRONT PORCH FORUM: Parkway Traffic Concerns

Thank you sharing your observations related to the Champlain Parkway Project.

The illuminated "No Turn on Red" signs are intended to prevent conflicting traffic movements during all protected signal phases, including the exclusive pedestrian phase and the protected left-turn phases (green left arrows) for vehicles turning from the Parkway. Based on your observations, we have shared your concerns with the project team and requested that they review conditions in the field to confirm that the traffic signal and associated signage are operating as designed.

Traffic signals operate through a programmed sequence of phases, often referred to as a cycle. Whether a vehicular phase is served and how long it remains active depends on real-time vehicle detection, while pedestrian phases are initiated when a push button is activated. When no vehicles are detected on side streets or in left-turn lanes and no pedestrian call has been received, the signal will typically remain on the Champlain Parkway, which carries the highest traffic volumes.

When a pedestrian activates the push button, the signal controller receives a request for the exclusive pedestrian phase during the current cycle. The walk signal is then displayed at its programmed point in the sequence. As a result, the amount of time a pedestrian waits depends on when the button is activated and where the signal is in its cycle at that moment. Depending on the timing, one or more vehicular phases may occur before the pedestrian phase is displayed. This is part of the normal operation of the traffic signal and does not necessarily indicate that vehicles are being prioritized over pedestrians.

That said, the sequence you described does not appear consistent with the intended operation of the illuminated "No Turn on Red" signs, so we have asked the project team to review the intersection and verify that all signal elements are functioning as intended.

Regarding motorists running red lights at the intersection of Champlain Parkway and Home Avenue, as well as speeding along the Parkway and Home Avenue, we share your concern about safety. These are enforcement issues, and the Department of Public Works has requested additional police presence in the area now that the full length of the Parkway is open. As a result, police patrols along the Parkway have increased, and we will continue to relay resident concerns to the appropriate agencies.

In addition, the Department of Public Works has installed a radar speed feedback sign on northbound Champlain Parkway between Home Avenue and Flynn Avenue to help encourage compliance with the speed limit. Residents may also contact the Burlington Police Department directly to report ongoing traffic safety concerns and request additional enforcement in the area.

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

Best,

The Champlain Parkway Project Team



FRONT PORCH FORUM COMMENT(S):

Hi neighbors, we live on the corner of Home Ave and the newly opened section of the Parkway. While I haven't seen a need for the parkway yet, I could see how it may help traffic somewhat, but we're having some issues already. I've emailed the city and would love other opinions and/or support on these issues:

- 1) cars running red lights - at the new intersection, cars are running red lights and ignoring the "no turn on red" protections for pedestrian crossings. I believe we need a police presence here until drivers respect the law.
- 2) weird traffic light patterns - we've seen unfriendly traffic pattern changes, such as the light turning from "no turn on red" (which generally indicates an upcoming pedestrian crossing) to a green light for a car that pulled up seconds before, even though pedestrians were waiting.
- 3) speeding- many cars are obviously going well over the speed limit. We need a temporary police presence and then a longer term speed monitor as cars leave the highway and transfer to residential speeds.

Let me know what you think, and join us at the DPW meeting in 2 weeks if you have similar concerns!