

**From:** [John M. Lewis](#)  
**To:** [cindyocange@comcast.net](mailto:cindyocange@comcast.net)  
**Cc:** [Lisa Oreskovich](#); [Martin Montalvo](#)  
**Subject:** Traffic Light at 15th Street & Washington Street  
**Date:** Thursday, June 14, 2018 1:27:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [15th and Washington Signal Letter from Resident.pdf](#)

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Hello Cindy. Thank you for the detailed letter explaining your concerns and recommendations for traffic control at 15<sup>th</sup> Street. We will be including your letter in our Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) agenda for the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will also be including a copy of this email.

I thought your overall observations of the intersection operation and your explanation were great. Seldom do citizens take the time and care to put their concerns in writing and also in such an understanding way. So thank you. Feel free to attend the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> as we will discuss further with the TAC and try to provide some information beyond what I can provide today.

Regarding the 15<sup>th</sup> Street right turn and the concern for the City making changes:

1. We do not intend to stripe this with a right turn pocket.
2. Your correct there is not sufficient room for this movement to occur safely.
3. I don't believe it's been more than a year since we added a wide white stripe in front of the auto repair shop to clarify the edge of the lane. But you're correct its only partially effective and people continue to encroach outside the white line to make the right turn and this is an illegal maneuver.
4. We'll share this concern with our Police Department as a concerns to monitor and enforce.

Regarding signal timing and signal phasing:

1. You make several good points about the operation at this intersection. I don't know the actual traffic count information nor the accident history and don't use the intersection as much as it sounds like you do, so I'll defer to the actual traffic data collected at the intersection. But adding a signal phase for distinct phases for the 15<sup>th</sup> street West bound traffic and east bound traffic may be an option. More signal time for the 15<sup>th</sup> Street through phases may be an option.
2. The signing you have described seems, based on my read of what you are asking for, seems unconventional. Yellow flashing for left turns (we call permissive left turn signalization) exists as an option on Washington for the turn lanes but without the turn lanes on 15<sup>th</sup> is not an option.
3. Oregon City like most Clackamas County cities utilize the County Signal Division to oversee the signal programming. Oregon City will share this email and your letter with the County for further consideration on signal programming and ask them to respond to me which I will then share with the TAC.
4. You may have noticed that the City has started a new signalized intersection project at 12<sup>th</sup> and Washington. This project also includes provisions for signal interconnection between 12<sup>th</sup> Street and 17<sup>th</sup> Street which will allow the signals along Washington to communicate with one another which will add to the intelligence of the signals along this corridor.
5. With all these considerations we also realize that the 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Street, 99E, and

Washington Street area is congested during several times during the day. Signal timing is our best and most cost effective management tool but in situations and times when the capacity is exceeded driver frustration will ensue.

6. The 14th and 15<sup>th</sup> Street signals at Washington do have intelligent signal controllers that adjust to the volumes. This is hard to perceive as a driver and becomes less obvious when all directions of the signals are backed up, but the programming is very reactive to traffic volumes and effective at making timing adjustments when needed.
7. Keep in mind Washington is the higher volume street so it will always get more green time as opposed to the side streets (15<sup>th</sup>).

Again thank you for your letter. We will follow up.

**John M. Lewis, P.E.**

**Public Works Director**

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