



## CITY COUNCIL REPORT

July 24, 2007

TO: Phillip L. Nelson, City Manager

FROM: Brian Murphy, Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Services  
 Steve Vandette, City Engineer *SV*  
 John Abraham, Deputy City Engineer/Traffic Engineer *JAA*

SUBJECT: Concerns About Pedestrians at Rochester and Big Beaver.

### Background:

This is in response to some concerns expressed to City Council at their meeting of July 23, 2007 regarding inadequate time for pedestrians to cross the roadway.

The pedestrian signals at the intersection were tested many times in the past 6 weeks and we found that there is more than adequate time for pedestrians to cross if they obey the traffic signal. If the push button is activated, the signal provides a 7-8 second period of steady WALK signal (white) to provide pedestrians start-up time. The steady WALK signal is followed by a flashing DON'T WALK signal that indicates that, if a pedestrian has not already started walking in the crosswalk, they should not enter the crosswalk but wait for the next signal. If the pedestrian crosses 3 lanes of Rochester when the signal is WALK and is faced with a DON'T WALK signal while in the median, the pedestrian should activate the push button provided in the median area and wait for a steady WALK signal before crossing the other three lanes of Rochester Road. The pedestrian protection does not terminate for pedestrians already in the roadway when the steady WALK ends and the flashing DON'T WALK begins. Complete protection exists for any pedestrian who begins to cross the roadway during any part of the steady WALK interval, even if most of the actual crossing takes place during the flashing DON'T WALK interval. Essentially the steady WALK indication informs pedestrians that they may begin to cross the roadway. The flashing DON'T WALK provides protection for pedestrians who began their crossing during the WALK interval and prevents late arrivals at the intersection from beginning to cross. This operation of pedestrian signals is standard all over the Country and in Michigan. The Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD) requires this type of operation of the signal and following is an excerpt that explains the meaning of the signals:

#### *Section 4E.02 Meaning of Pedestrian Signal Head Indications (From the MMUTCD)*

*Standard: Pedestrian signal head indications shall have the following meanings:*

- A. A steady WALKING PERSON (symbolizing WALK) signal indication means that a pedestrian facing the signal indication is permitted to start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal indication, possibly in conflict with turning vehicles. The pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection at the time that the WALKING PERSON (symbolizing WALK) signal indication is first shown.
- B. A flashing UPRAISED HAND (symbolizing DONT WALK) signal indication means that a pedestrian shall not start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal indication, but that any pedestrian who has already started to cross on a steady WALKING PERSON (symbolizing WALK) signal indication shall proceed out of the traveled way.
- C. A steady UPRAISED HAND (symbolizing DONT WALK) signal indication means that a pedestrian shall not enter the roadway in the direction of the signal indication.