

Public Works and Buildings Committee
City Hall Council Chambers
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2023 7PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor Donald Hamann, Chairman
Councilor Jim Gray, Vice Chairman
Councilor John Larochelle
Councilor Alexander de Geofroy

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilor Steve Beaudoin

OTHERS PRESENT

Peter C. Nourse PE, Director of City Service
Lisa Clark, Deputy Director DPW
Dan Camara, Coordinator GIS & Asset Mgmt.
Susan Rice, North Main Business Owner, resident 159 Ten Rod Rd
Mark Sullivan, Deputy Finance Director, Main Street Org Representative
Jeff Bisson, Main Street Representative
Curt Thompson, PE Traffic Operations Engineer

MINUTES

Councilor Hamann called the Public Works and Building Committee to order at 7PM

1. Approval of April 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Larochelle made a motion to accept the minutes of the February, 2023 meeting as presented. Councilor Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Input

Susan Rice of 159 Ten Rod Road and Business owner North Main Street. Mrs. Rice spoke to the Committee regarding the construction site work on North Main Street. She voiced concerns for public safety due to poor signage for construction zone and poor maintenance of the construction zone when not in operation. Mrs. Rice stated that construction materials were not swept up and she stated particular concern for motorcycle traffic in the area and the pedestrian crosswalk.

3. Main Street Deck Project

Mr. Sullivan spoke on behalf of the Main Street Organization. He stated he had previously discussed conceptual plans with this Committee for a deck project in the alley / walkway from North Main Street down to Wyandotte Falls. He presented a PowerPoint presentation to show the Committee the location for the deck and the design. (See Attached). Mr. Sullivan explained that the area has the potential to be a gateway to the Water Street Project and it can be used for small stage performances & other planned popup events. He stated that there will be some bistro tables and chairs and there might

also be artwork and plantings to spruce up the area. Mr. Bisson stated that this alley has had complaints regarding people hanging out and public safety concerns. He noted that last year some lights were put up to assist in that regard, and this project is planned to make this a better utilized safe area for the public. Councilor de Geofroy asked if there was electrical power to supply the stage for performances. Mr. Bisson stated that while there is a business owner that will allow electrical use if needed, Main Street sees this more as an acoustic situation for performers. Mr. Bisson stated that the Deck should be completed by the end of May and then there will be some bistro tables and chairs added. Councilor Hamann asked if permits were in place. Mr. Bisson stated that the permit is in place and Jim Grant from the Building & Licensing Department has been helpful and will assist with any issues that arise. He explained that the deck is going in where there is currently an area railed off. Councilor Gray asked for the PP be attached to the minutes.

4. Traffic Signal Modernization Project Update

Mr. Nourse stated that the City owns and maintains twenty (20) traffic signalized intersections and the funds for traffic signal modernizations were first obtained in the FY2020 CIP Budget. He noted that there have been additional appropriations since that time and that he will continue annually to request funding for the modernization of signals. Mr. Nourse stated that the goal is to utilize recent adaptive management technologies to proactively optimize the operations of the traffic signals. Mr. Nourse stated that Sebago Technics of South Portland is the City's designated signalization integrator, and he introduced Curt Thompson, PE from Sebago Technics. Mr. Nourse stated that in 2019, Sebago Technics assisted the City to install upgrades to 5 signalized intersections in the Columbus Avenue corridor (from Lowell to Brock Street). The upgrades provided the ability to coordinate the timings from intersection to intersection. He stated that these upgrades resulted in an approximate 20% reduction of the travel time through that area. Mr. Nourse stated that most recently we upgraded the intersection of South Main and Columbus with a new controller equipped with a secure internet connection to a traffic link server and a video-based vehicle detection system. The installed equipment included point-to-point radio technology to communicate with the other five intersections along the corridor. Mr. Nourse stated that this technology gives the City the ability to optimize the timings by coordinating all six intersections. He stated that timings and phasing of the signals can be changed remotely in real time if warranted and will also identify any malfunctioning equipment remotely. Mr. Nourse stated that Sebago Technics is assisting the City with a master plan design that will prioritize future intersection based on existing equipment and traffic conditions. Mr. Thompson displayed a PowerPoint (PP) presentation on the monitors. (Attached to the minutes). He explained the implemented equipment and results of the upgrades in detail using graphics and video. He also demonstrated the operations video equipment in real time. Mr. Thompson discussed the age and the limitations of the City's current traffic signal equipment. He noted most equipment dates to the 1980's and 1990's. Mr. Thompson stated that upgrading to this technology gives the ability to proactively monitor these signals and to adjust timings as required, prior to complaints.

5. Water Main Transmission Line Rehab Update

Mr. Nourse stated that he had last discussed this 20" transmission rehabilitation project in detail with the Committee at the April 20, 2023, meeting. He noted that work done at that point included pipe condition investigations, valve insertions necessary for future

maintenance and operations and cleaning of the main by pigging the line. He noted that if any of the public was interested in this project, they should watch the meeting online via the City website. Mr. Nourse stated that since that time the closed-circuit television (CCTV) inspections have confirmed the condition of the pipe and that the lining of the 20-inch water transmission main will not be necessary. Mr. Nourse stated that there is additional work that includes re-routing of the water main around the 217 Washington Street Chlorinator building. He stated that the main is routed through this building and there is a connection to a 1943 water main and other abandoned system components that do not meet the drinking water standard requirements. Mr. Nourse discussed hydraulic restrictions and flow reduction due to varying sizes in pipe as it flows through the building. He stated that the flow restriction reduce water quality, fire flows and redundancy in the area when needed. Mr. Nourse stated that there is sufficient funding for the follow-up work to re-route the main as part of the the rehabilitation project and he stated that the work is qualified under the ARPA guidelines. Mr. Nourse explained the funding of the project. He stated that the City Council delegated two million dollars of the City's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the 20" Transmission Main Rehabilitation Project. He noted that we have expended approximately three hundred and nine thousand to date and this work estimated at one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Nourse stated that the remaining balance will be returned to the ARPA pool of funding, and he would like to discuss delegating these funds to another water project that is in progress. Councilor Hamann asked if the pipe work is in progress. Mr. Nourse stated that they are currently working on the design specification to re-route the pipe. Councilor Gray stated that once this project wraps up the remaining funds will need to be delegated though the Finance Committee and the full City Council if it were to be used for a different project.

6. Bulk Water Hauling Station

Mr. Nourse stated also located with the old chlorinator building and quansot hut at 217 Washington Street site there is now a bulk water metering station. He stated that this station is used by bulk water haulers, such as tankers for filling pools, landscapers and construction contractors who need water for site maintenance. Mr. Nourse stated it is also used by City staff to fill sweepers and jet and Vaccon trucks. He stated that previously this service was offered at the 45 Old Dover Road location and a meter with manual readings was used. Mr. Nourse said that due to the closure of the 45 Old Dover Road site this location was selected as it provides the traffic flow space, available water flows, and electrical and communication equipment for the automated system. He noted the recent water audit included a recommendation to better account for billed metered water. Mr. Nourse stated that this automated system is a package system from Portologic that provides automated metering and account tracking software. He stated that it is equipped with a flow meter and backflow prevention device, automatic valve drains and it controls the communications via the internet to the Utility Billing Office. Mr. Nourse displayed a graphic on the monitors of the station. (Attached to minutes). He stated that this allows for real time communication for volumes used and tracking per user. Each user is issued a unique account number and pin code that is assigned by DPW Administrative staff and access can be restricted in real time if necessary. Mr. Nourse also stated that tree cameras are being mounted at this site for the security of inventory stored at the location and the security of this automated system. Mr. Nourse stated that there have been instances of

contractors accessing hydrants and natural water ways to obtain water for their operations, which is illegal and subject to violations. He stated by providing this station for access it is helpful to eliminate those practices. Ms. Clark noted that this system's efficiency for billing and accurate metering has been very successful. Mr. Nourse stated that we will be using a similar Portologic System at the new septage receiving facility. The Committee discussed the revenue received from the septage receiving station and what impacts to the treatment process and NPDES permit could occur if there were increase volumes of private septic received. Councilor de Geofroy requested information on revenues and process impacts as the septage receiving project moves forward.

7. Rt202A Water Main Extension & Tank Project Update:

Mr. Nourse stated that the project is proceeding without significant issues. He stated that construction started in 2021 and water main installation is completed from the Highfields Common development, down Bickford Road to 202A (Walnut Street). The main has been installed down 202A to the area of Crown Point and installation is completed on Winkley Farm Road and Fiddlehead Lane. Mr. Nourse stated that the services have been completed on Winkley Farm and will start on Fiddlehead soon. He noted that all properties that wish to tie in, including the 10 MTBE homes, will be completed this calendar year (2023). Mr. Nourse stated that work on the tank has resumed, and the project completion date is scheduled for May or June of 2024. He noted that there will be a Public Relations event scheduled for summer or fall regarding this project.

8. Other:

Tebbetts Road - Councilor Hamann asked the reason for road closure. Ms. Clark stated that it was closed 3-4 hours for tree removal.

Staffing Update – Mr. Nourse informed the committee of the resignation of the City Engineer, Michael S. Bezanson, PE. He noted that Mr. Bezanson had been with the Department for 10 years and that he has served the City well and was a very dedicated employee. Mr. Nourse stated that this is a key position at the DPW as responsibilities include management of Capital Infrastructure projects, private development and interagency interactions. Mr. Nourse stated that the leadership team at the DPW is now down tree positions. He listed these positions as an Assistant Engineer, the City Engineer and the Deputy Director of Technical Services. Mr. Nourse stated he will be picking up most of these duties but that it is not sustainable in the long term. He explained that these vacancies have and will continue to have an impact on the level of work within the department. Councilor LaRochelle asked the Director of possible reasons why he is having trouble filling the vacancies. Mr. Nourse stated that there is a national shortage of engineers and although he believes the City has done a good job elevating staff wages, it is tough to compete with what the private sector offers for wages and working from home. Mr. Nourse stated that there has been an increase in funding and that he has spoken with consultants that are expressing the same staffing issues due to the increase in projects both Municipal and private.

Councilor Larochelle made a motion for adjournment at 8:35. The motion was seconded by Councilor de Geofroy. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa J. Clark, DPW Deputy Director Operations & Administration.



Wyandotte Alley deck project

Public Works Committee

May 18, 2023

Current Condition



Viewed from North Main looking toward Wyndotte



Closer View from North Main looking toward Wyndotte

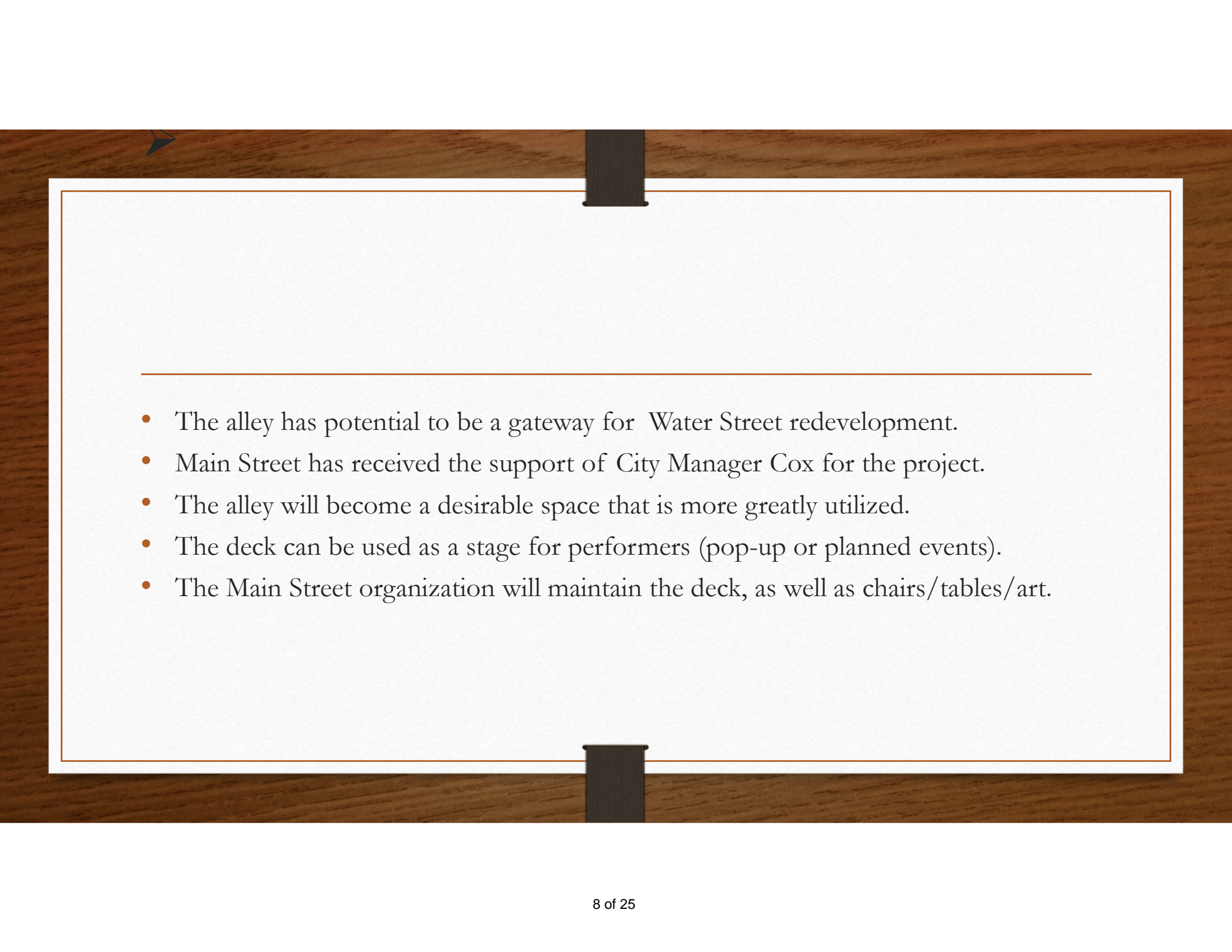
Current Condition



Old Rail Fenced area



Location & size of deck

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- The alley has potential to be a gateway for Water Street redevelopment.
 - Main Street has received the support of City Manager Cox for the project.
 - The alley will become a desirable space that is more greatly utilized.
 - The deck can be used as a stage for performers (pop-up or planned events).
 - The Main Street organization will maintain the deck, as well as chairs/tables/art.

Columbus Avenue

Overview of Traffic Signal Improvement Projects

Curt Thompson, P.E. PTOE

Sr. Traffic Operations Engineer



CIVIL ENGINEERING • SURVEYING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Agenda

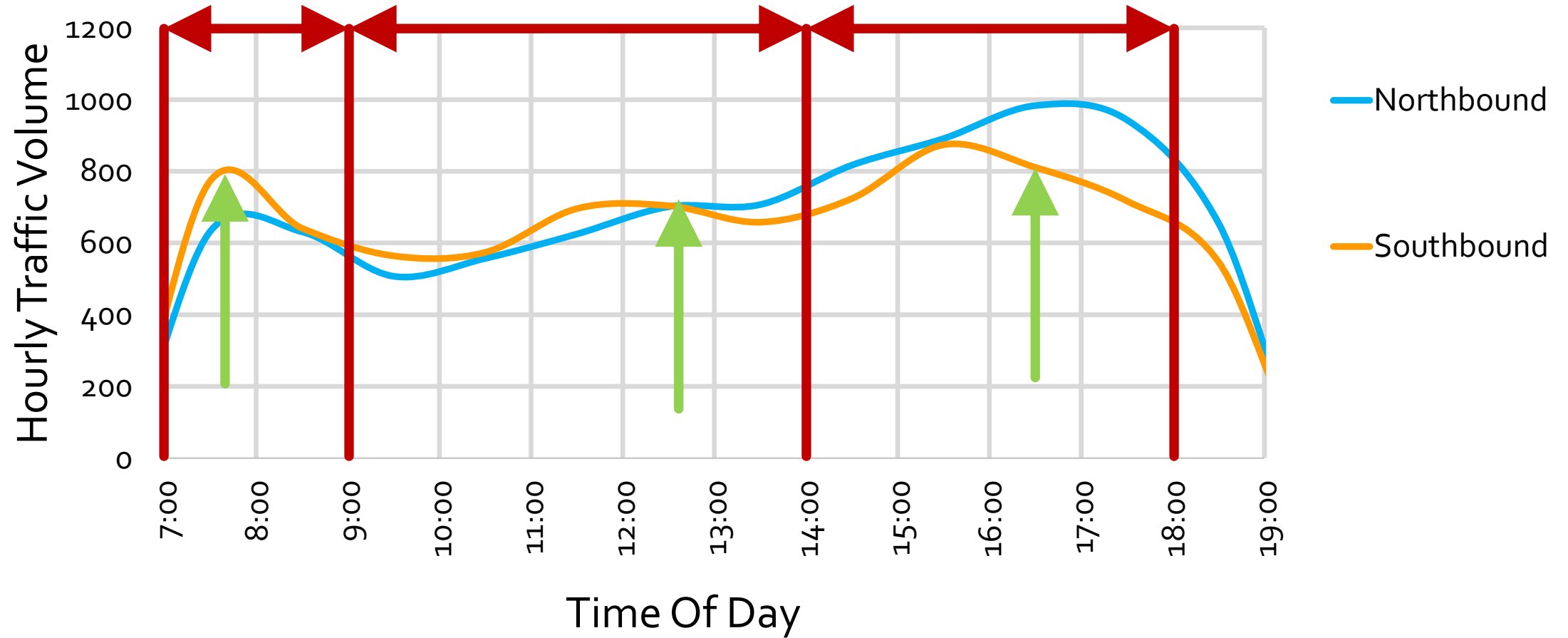
- 2018-2019 : Traffic Signal Evaluation and Coordinated Signal Timings Deployment
- 2022-2023 : Columbus Ave. Traffic Signal Improvements
- Demonstration of Video Detection and Reporting
- Recommended Next Steps

2018-2019 : Traffic Signal Evaluation and Coordinated Signal Timings Deployment

- Completed safety audit of existing signal timings.
- Developed coordination plans utilizing traffic movement volumes collected in 2018.
- Deployed the coordination plans to the corridor.

11/2018 Hourly Traffic Profile

North of Old Dover Road





2018-2019 : Traffic Signal Evaluation and Coordinated Signal Timings Deployment

Results

- 10-20% Average Reduction in Delay
- 23% Reduction in AM SB Total Travel Time
- 12% Reduction in PM NB Total Travel Time
- 10-20 Second Reduction in 80th percentile Travel Times

2018-2019 : Traffic Signal Evaluation and Coordinated Signal Timings Deployment

Recommendations

- Create Traffic Signal Network With Remote Connection Capabilities.
- Upgrade vehicle detection to Video with Signal Performance Measures.
- Install travel time monitoring.

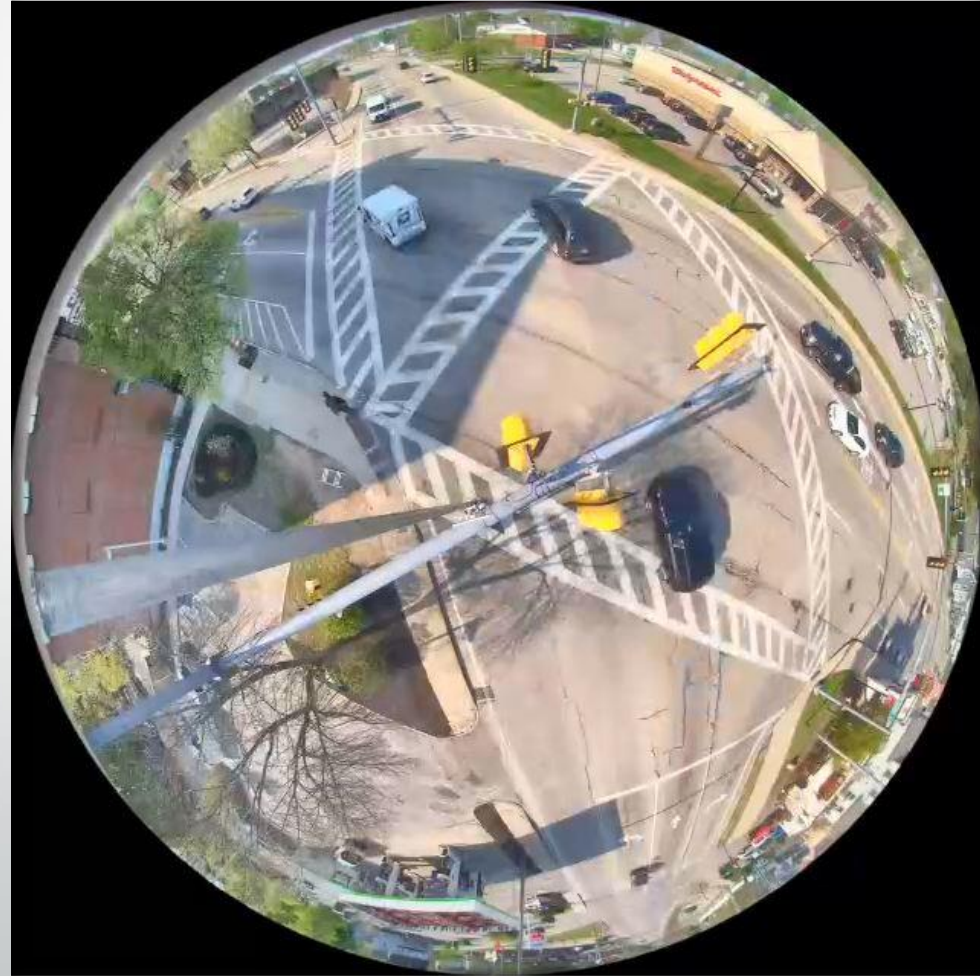
2022-2023 : Columbus Ave. Traffic Signal Improvements

- Equipment Upgrades for Columbus Ave. at South Main St. Signal.
- Deployed wireless radio interconnect along the corridor and created a traffic network.
- Established remote communication to the traffic network.

2022-2023 : Columbus Ave. Traffic Signal Improvements



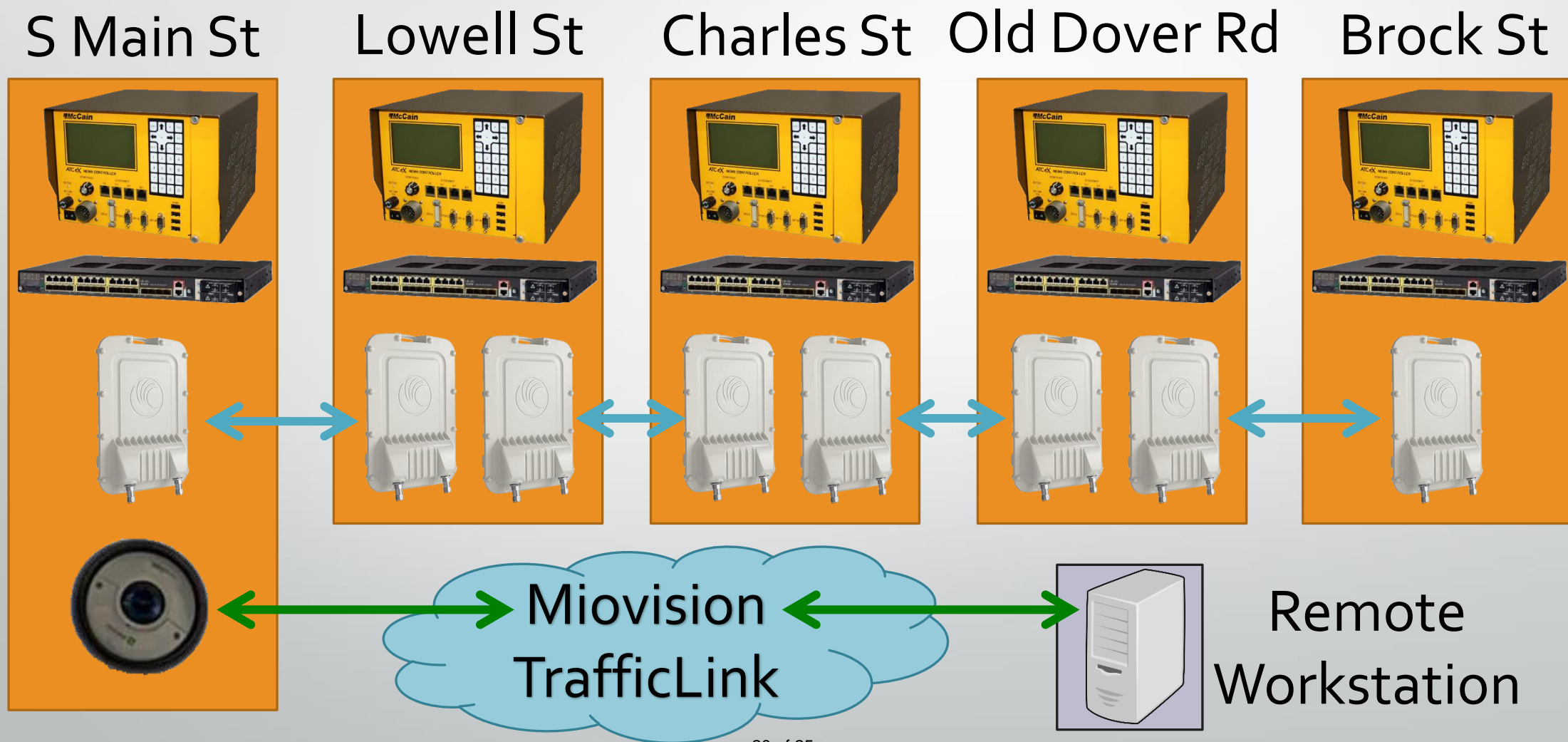
2022-2023 : Columbus Ave. Traffic Signal Improvements




2022-2023 : Columbus Ave. Traffic Signal Improvements



Traffic Signal Network Diagram





Demonstration of Miovision TrafficLink



Demonstration of Power Bi Detector SPM Report

Recommended Next Steps

- Upgrade Detection at other Columbus Ave Intersections
- Traffic Network Master Communication Plan
- Traffic Signal Asset Management Plan

Questions?



Curt Thompson, P.E. PTOE
Sr. Traffic Operations Engineer
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NOTICE
THIS AREA IS UNDER
24 HOUR
VIDEO
SURVEILLANCE