

CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN

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*City of Youngstown Announces Changes to the MAH-Youngstown Signals; PID 102542; project in
Downtown Youngstown*

The city of Youngstown plans to reconstruct eleven (11) downtown traffic signals, remove six (6) unwarranted traffic signals located along the Fifth Avenue, Wick Avenue and Front Street corridors and install a mid-block pedestrian signal on Fifth Avenue between Grant Street and the Madison Avenue Expressway (U.S. Route 422) to provide a safe crossing for pedestrians. Based on comments received at the public involvement meeting held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments office and during the subsequent 30-day public comment period, the city reevaluated the Market Street / Boardman Street intersection and will no longer remove the existing traffic signal at this intersection. As the existing traffic signal was determined to be unwarranted, it will not be eligible for full reconstruction under this project. However, the city plans to upgrade the vehicular and pedestrian signal heads at the intersection with local city funds to improve functionality and visibility for those who travel through the Market Street/Boardman Street intersection. The city appreciates the comments received during the public involvement process for the project.

A summary of the public comments received during the comment period for the MAH-Youngstown Signals; PID 102542; project and responses to those comments are available at <https://youngstownohio.gov>.

Number of Comments	Comment / Concern	Response to Comments
6	Those employed in the area need a means of safe crossing when walking to their parked cars. Removing the lights will create too much risk for all pedestrians.	Marked crosswalks will still remain at the intersections where traffic signals are being removed and pedestrians will still be able to cross once finding a suitable gap in passing traffic, just as they would do at any other unsignalized intersection. While some traffic signals will still be removed as part of this project, the City will no longer remove the existing traffic signal at the Market/Boardman intersection and will instead keep it in place.
3	Drivers in the area will still drive at an excessive and unsafe speed.	Traffic signals are utilized to assign the right-of-way to vehicles at intersecting cross streets and are not a means for speed control. Speeding is ultimately an enforcement issue and should be addressed to the police department should it be perceived that drivers are exceeding the posted speed limit in these locations.
2	Many residents of International Towers, on the corner of Market Street/Boardman Street intersection, are physically challenged individuals who will be put in danger crossing.	Based on feedback received as part of the public involvement process, the City will no longer remove the existing traffic signal at the Market/Boardman intersection and will instead keep it in place. The City will upgrade both the vehicular signals and pedestrian signals as part of the project to improve visibility for both drivers and pedestrians.
2	If the intersection is not worthy of replacing old traffic light with a new one, why can't the traffic light that is currently there remain in place? Or, can the traffic light be replaced with one that blinks red on Boardman Street and yellow on Market Street?	A warrant study was performed and each traffic signal that is proposed to be removed with this project was found to not meet any of the minimum criteria set forth by the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices to justify signalization. Removing unwarranted signals has proven to help reduce vehicular delay, reduce the potential for rear-end crashes, and eliminate long-term maintenance costs for the City. However, based on feedback received as part of the public involvement process, the City will no longer remove the existing traffic signal at the Market/Boardman intersection and will instead keep it in place.
2	At the Front Street/Walnut Street intersection, workers will have to contend with Market Street and turning left onto Front Street. Why can't they have yellow blinkers after 6 PM until 6 AM?	The current volumes along Front Street are now low enough throughout the day where turning onto Front Street will be able to be done from a stop-controlled condition, and in most instances, will require drivers to wait far less time than what they currently do under traffic signal control. The existing traffic signal will be placed in flash for a specified period prior to removal, but this provides the same means of traffic control as the proposed stop sign condition.
2	Many accidents have occurred with people running the red light at the Market Street/Boardman Street intersection. If they don't stop for a red light, they will ignore a stop sign.	Drivers not adhering to a traffic signal or stop sign is ultimately an enforcement issue and should be addressed to the police department should it be perceived that drivers are not following established traffic laws in these locations. For that particular intersection, the City will no longer remove the existing traffic signal at the Market/Boardman intersection and will instead keep it in place. The City will upgrade the vehicular signals as part of the project to improve visibility for drivers which may help reduce red light running.
2	It will be difficult to cross in front of the Covelli Center. People often come downtown before or after a concert to eat and without being able to cross safely, it could prevent people from patronizing downtown businesses.	Law enforcement officers are typically present at the intersection before and after events and can assist pedestrians crossing the roadway when needed. Marked crosswalks will still remain at the intersections where traffic signals are being removed and pedestrians will still be able to cross once finding a suitable gap in passing traffic, just as they would do at any other unsignalized intersection.
1	To cross at the Market Street/Boardman Street intersection will be too dangerous. It is difficult to see around the bend when cars are parked on Boardman Street and Market Street by the bank and the courthouse.	Based on feedback received as part of the public involvement process, the City will no longer remove the existing traffic signal at the Market/Boardman intersection and will instead keep it in place. The City will upgrade both the vehicular signals and pedestrian signals as part of the project to improve visibility for both drivers and pedestrians. The City should also be enforcing a no parking zone within 20 feet of any marked crosswalk as required by Ohio Revised Code section 4511.68 which will help allow pedestrians to see approaching traffic.