



New Traffic Signal Timings Will Benefit the Environment

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — This weekend, the City of Victoria will improve traffic signal timings at over 60 intersections, reducing wait times, vehicle emissions and fuel consumption on Victoria roads.

New traffic signal timings have been developed for Victoria's 49 downtown intersections and 12 arterial intersections on Douglas and Blanshard Streets, between Bay Street and Tolmie Avenue. City staff estimate the changes will result in a 10% improvement which translates to an annual savings of:

- 1.6 million litres of fuel
- 43,000 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions, and
- 270,000 hours of vehicle delays.

Motorists, cyclists and pedestrians are advised to exercise caution while becoming familiar with the new traffic patterns.

The work will consist of a crew of two visiting each signal control box and manually changing the timing. The intersections will be monitored for the next month and minor adjustments will be made as required. The 49 downtown intersections were last changed 17 years ago, in 1992.

Through partnerships with BC Transit and the Ministry of Transportation, the City's new traffic signal timings should improve traffic flow between jurisdictions, resulting in fewer vehicle collisions and a safer environment for cyclists and pedestrians.

A new control centre located at the City's Public Works Yard has the capacity to operate up to 250 intersections and will eventually eliminate the need for signal changes to be made on site. The long term goal is to connect all of the City signals to the control centre and further develop a regional model with neighbouring municipalities. Currently, 12 of the City's 125 intersections are directly connected to the control centre.

The new control centre will manage the Transit Signal Priority project, a joint venture between the City of Victoria and BC Transit to be implemented this fall, which will allow Douglas Street intersections to stay green up to eight seconds longer when they receive a signal from an approaching transit bus that is behind schedule.

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For More Information:

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