



City of Omaha
Jean Stothert, Mayor

Office of the Mayor
1819 Farnam Street, Suite 300
Omaha, Nebraska 68183-0300
(402) 444-5000
FAX: (402) 444-6059

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Omaha, NE – Mayor Jean Stothert returned to Omaha Friday after participating in the National League of Cities conference in Washington D.C. this week.

She has now been briefed by the Public Works traffic division on the plans to remove the pedestrian crossing signals at 51st & Farnam and 52nd & Chicago.

Mayor Stothert directed that both signals will be turned back on today. In addition, the study period will be extended to collect additional data at both crossings during the 2017-2018 school year.

“Safety is always our number one priority,” said Mayor Jean Stothert. “An additional year of study will provide more comprehensive information to make such an important decision.”

Additional traffic and pedestrian counts at various times over the next year will provide data to satisfy the federal mandates in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The study criteria must meet the federal guidelines.

At the conclusion of the school year, Mayor Stothert and the traffic engineers will present the results of all studies to the neighbors and Dundee Elementary School parents. She also plans a neighborhood meeting next month to review the citywide traffic signal master plan. A date will be selected soon.

Over the next 10 years, the City will implement the \$35 million plan to modernize and upgrade the traffic signal system to improve safety and efficiency for all users. The City currently has 1,000 traffic signals using outdated technology.

The Federal Highway Administration will pay 80% of the total project cost. To qualify for the federal funding, each signal must be evaluated to determine if it meets the requirements of the MUTCD.

The initial phase of the evaluation, which is currently underway, involves 200 signals.

Plans to remove four signals at other locations are not affected. They do not meet the federally required warrants. Those signals are true traffic signals, unlike the two pedestrian crossing school signals. Those locations are:

120th & Arbor
108th & 7 Oak
73rd & Mercy
84th & Spring