



# CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

## Public Works Department Engineering Services Division


300 Sixth Street

Telephone: (605) 394-4154 FAX: (605) 355-3083

Web: [www.rcgov.org](http://www.rcgov.org)

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Works Committee, Mayor Hanks, City Council

FROM: Dale Tech PE/LS, City Engineer 

SUBJECT: E. St. Pat and S. Valley Drive Traffic Signal Public Input Meeting

DATE: March 30, 2010

Attached are comments from citizens that attended the public meeting that was held on Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 as well as comments that were left with the Engineering Services Division from people that could not attend the meeting. There were seventeen comments requesting the traffic signal be reinstalled and twelve comments requesting the traffic signal be removed.

The Traffic Signal Warrant Study that was completed by Engineering Services on February 17, 2010 recommends that the traffic signal should be removed as none of the nine warrants presented in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices were satisfied.

Engineering Services is requesting direction from the City Council as to whether or not the traffic signal should be replaced.

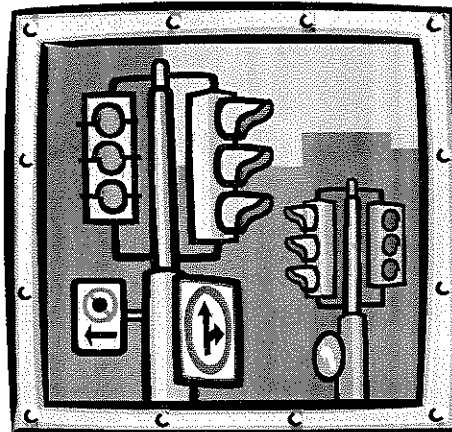


***March 9, 2010***

***PUBLIC MEETING COMMENTS***

***ST. PATRICK ST. / VALLEY DR.***

***TRAFFIC SIGNAL STUDY***



ENGINEERING SERVICES/PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

## MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**  
**ST. PATRICK ST. / VALLEY DR. TRAFFIC SIGNAL**  
**03/09/10**

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE # / EMAIL (optional)
MARGE ANDERSON	2806 CACTUS DR, RC, SD 57703	342-2792
Bryce Sowards	23599 Bradsky Rd, R.C., SD 57703	431-6914
NEAL H. Hodges II	2327 South Valley Drive RCSD 57703	342-7011
Siawanna Hodges	2327 South Valley Drive RCSD 57703	
Cody Champion	2734 Garden Lane RC 57703	3414683 3417428
Tracy Beck	3140 Cyclone St #26 RCSD 57703	(605) 791-4776
Jessie Runkman	2709 Eden Lane RC SD 57703	342-0833
Gus Johnson	1234 Zitebach RC SD 57703	343-5237
Hugh Martin	2818 S. Valley Dr RCSD 57703	341-5358
Linda Murphy	2733 Eden Lane RC, SD 57703	cell 605-222-2100
Miss Bickett	2917 Garden Lane RC, SD 57703	605-342-7024
Wayne Winchell	1917 S Valley Dr 703	342-3964
Bob Fuchs	3307 S. Valley Dr. 03	381-1235
Amy Webb	2800 Cactus Dr S Valley Dr 03	430-8874
Kathy Webb	2801 Cactus Dr S Valley Dr 03	430-0252

**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**  
**ST. PATRICK ST. / VALLEY DR. TRAFFIC SIGNAL**  
**03/09/10**

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE # / EMAIL (optional)
CURT/MARGARET SIMONSON	1903 S. VALLEY DRIVE RCSD	341-1783
TODD WIGG	2760 Terra St RCSD	209-1765
Tessia Johnston	2760 Terra St RCSD	381-8649
Jerry Sailer	2930 Murphy Lane	542-8815
Crystal Sailer	" " "	342-8815
Linda Peterson	2826 Garden Ln RCSD	342-7213
Dwight Peterson	" " "	342-7213
Dallas Deranbeau	2717 Eden Lane RCSD	348-8394
Enoch Pashby	2525 Long Acre dr	209-7924
Joey Chaney	2802 Scott St. RCSD	718-4041
Bettie Knutthoff	2403 S. Valley Dr	430-9024
Susan Englebert	4763 Twilight Dr. RC	393-1181
Andy Linder	3033 Valley Dr. RC	341-7636
Debra Patino	2527 Long Acre Dr	343-0765
Debra Patino	2704 E. Fairmont Street	786-4866

**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**  
**ST. PATRICK ST. / VALLEY DR. TRAFFIC SIGNAL**  
**03/09/10**

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE # / EMAIL (optional)
JACK WHITE	1026 ZIEBACH ST	355-0892

**COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF RE-INSTALLING  
TRAFFIC SIGNAL**

**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010  
6:30 – 8:00 PM  
Community Room - CSAC

Name:

Jason Ranken

Address:

2709 Eden Lane

Phone (optional):

342-0833

Email (optional):

jssourenken@hotmail.com

We need the light.

RETURN TO:

City of Rapid City  
Engineering Services  
300 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
FAX 394-6905  
Email john.less@rcgov.org



**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE - COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Community Room - CSAC

Name: Hugh MartinAddress: 2818 So. Valley Dr  
RC SD 57703Phone (optional): 341-5353 390-5559

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

I've lived on south Valley Dr. for around 36 or 37 years. I've had 2 accidents at the intersection of valley Dr & St Pat. My daughter had one there, & my nephew. I believe it's a good idea to put traffic lights back in that intersection. My main reason is that the view is blocked by trees, & Telephone Pole to the left (west) when you're North Bound. I feel that you need to put up lights like you have on Omaha & 44 with 2 light up high for traffic on St Pat & two lower lights on the sides. You showed the accident over the past 4 or 5 years, look back over the past 40 years there probably 200 or more. You could also put warning light to each side of the intersection on St Pat (flashing yellow) preparing traffic that light was going to change.

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You could also drop speed limit two 35mph on St Pat.

Hugh Martin 

Item #20

**Ward 4 Alderman**  
**1128 Alma St.**  
**Rapid City, SD 57701**  
**Home: 341-7276**  
**Cell: 545-4269**

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**From:** tess johnston [mailto:tm\_johnston@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thu 2/25/2010 7:09 PM  
**To:** LaCroix Lloyd  
**Subject:** South Valley Drive and East St. Patrick Signal

Good Evening;

I just read the study that was done on East St. Patrick and South Valley Drive to see if the conditions warrant the replacement of the stop light and it appears that they are saying that the conditions do not. My thoughts are that it will cost to go through with the recommendations that were suggested when in reality shouldn't Fed Ex, whose driver is responsible for removing the stop light, have insurance that would pay for the replacement of the light. Living off of South Valley Drive and attempting to go to work at the prime times indicated in the study, against traffic that is flowing at an average rate of 45 mph if not a little faster, is not exactly the safest. My concern is the elderly population that live down this road as well as the young drivers that are attempting to get to school, which I know that both live in this area. I have lived in this area for well over ten years and have not noticed many accidents at this intersection but fear that this will change due to the high rate of speed of the through traffic and the challenge facing those drivers that are trying to turn or cross at this intersection. Instead of going to all of the trouble of changing the intersection why not just put it back the way it was. I do not believe that there were any complaints prior to the stop light being knocked down and, from this area citizens driving perspective, a lot safer.

I really appreciate the attention that you have given to this matter. Please continue to keep me informed until the final decision is reached.

Thank you,  
Tessia Johnston

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**Less John**

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**From:** LaCroix Lloyd  
**Sent:** Monday, March 08, 2010 6:46 AM  
**To:** tess johnston  
**Cc:** Tech Dale; Less John  
**Subject:** RE: South Valley Drive and East St. Patrick Signal

***I was informed they will put up signs in the neighborhood. I will check today***

***Dale or John do you have the date on the meeting***

**Lloyd LaCroix**  
**Council President**

**Rapid City Common Council**  
**Ward 4 Alderman**  
**1128 Alma St.**  
**Rapid City, SD 57701**  
**Home: 341-7276**  
**Cell: 545-4269**

---

**From:** tess johnston [mailto:tm\_johnston@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tue 3/2/2010 6:38 AM  
**To:** LaCroix Lloyd  
**Subject:** RE: South Valley Drive and East St. Patrick Signal

Do you know when and where this public meeting will be?

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**Subject:** RE: South Valley Drive and East St. Patrick Signal  
**Date:** Mon, 1 Mar 2010 17:37:46 -0700  
**From:** Lloyd.LaCroix@rcgov.org  
**To:** tm\_johnston@hotmail.com

***Tess John Less will hold a public meeting to get input from the residents, their has been responses from citizens to not install and to install, it is covered by insurance and would not cost anything to re install. The concern the staff had was the accidents involved in red light violations. I agree people are use to the light and if they want it back up it should be.***

**Lloyd LaCroix**  
**Council President**  
**Rapid City Common Council**

**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Community Room - CSAC

Name: Byce SowardsAddress: 23599 Brodsky Rd.Rapid City, SD 57703Phone (optional): 355-3707 431-6914

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

I am and have been a school <sup>bus</sup> driver to bus students to the Rapid City School District schools for many years. There are school bus routes throughout the whole day having to use So. Valley Drive, including my route. At times some of the buses have as many as 65-83 students on. That is precious lives that we should be concerned about to safe guard and protect.

For twenty some years I lived on a combination of Orchard Lane and Garden Lane. So I am fully aware of the traffic pattern entailing South Valley Dr. Plus So. Valley Drive is a dead end street with no other alternative to exit it besides E. St. Patrick St.

The existing situation for NB Valley Drive traffic entering onto E. St. Patrick is very unsafe without a traffic controlled light due to the visibility on the south side of E. St. Patrick St. west of Valley Dr.

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as far as your study in regards to not needing a traffic light because of no crosswalks or sidewalks, this need <sup>to be</sup> addressed; there is considerable amount of foot traffic and would be more if sidewalks were provided and need <sup>to be</sup> and are expedient.

as it is, the vehicles entering E. St. Patrick Street have no recourse if they 'hit'. Speaking from experience, it was in recent years when the traffic light still existed, I entered E. St. Patrick St. with the green light. When I was in the middle of the intersection NB, W turn a pick-up ran the red light, and spun my pick-up. The one running the red light was cited and had to pay for all damages plus more. Had it been the way it is now I would have been cited and automatically deemed at fault.

**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Community Room - CSAC

Name: Jim BickettAddress: 2917 Garden Lane  
Rapid City, SD.Phone (optional): 342-7024

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

I am ~~opposed~~ for the stop light!!  
When trying to make a left turn on to  
St. Pat. from Valley Dr. it is much more  
dangerous without the light. ~~Also~~ Also  
in the summer there is a lot of foot traffic  
across St. Pat, the light served ~~as~~ well for  
a safe crossing. Also I thought this issue  
was raised when ~~being~~ the question of  
annexation into the city was first discussed.  
As I recalled the city's response was that  
they had no intention of removing the light.

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**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010  
6:30 – 8:00 PM  
Community Room - CSAC

Name: Dwight PetersonAddress: 2806 Garden Lane R.C.S.D 57703Phone (optional): 342-7213Email (optional): Dwp@WestRiver.com

I would like to see the stop lights to  
stay - it very hard to pull out with trailers

My main concern is the St lite.  
it is very dark corner. you cant see  
the pedestrians or you cant see the  
corner -

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# PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET

PW033010-18

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010  
6:30 – 8:00 PM  
Community Room - CSAC

Name: Linda Peterson

Address: 2826 Garden Ln

Rapid City SD 57703

Phone (optional): 342-7213

Email (optional): dlpeterson@rap.midea.net

I would like the stop light replaced.

it is hard to get off Valley Dr between  
7:30 - 8:00 am and also over the  
lunch hour or around 5 pm.

I am worried about being able to  
pull across traffic or cross over  
St. Pat when I am pulling our

house trailer this summer - the

picture you have are very misleading  
Visibility is bad from S. Valley Dr.

you have to pull way out to be able to  
see on coming traffic - which is moving

Very fast! if the  
light is not replaced.  
Someone will be seriously  
hurt or killed Item #20

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# PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET

PW033010-18

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Community Room - CSAC

Name: Tessia Johnston

Address: 2760 Terra St

Rapid City SD 57703

Phone (optional): 605-381-8649

Email (optional): tm-johnston@hotmail

Lived in the area since 1997 approach is off of S Valley drive is 25 mph turning into 45 mph traffic this is extremely dangerous. The cars EB on St. Patrick are going 45 mph(+) and are not going to slow down if anything they are speeding up to make the next light. The warrant study shows that a light is not needed so I would suggest slowing the speed on St. P. A light at this intersection breaks up traffic flow to make it safer for traffic trying to enter and go west on St. Pat. Have Fed Ex insurance pay for what they destroyed with no cost to the city.

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**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Community Room - CSAC

Name: TODD WEIGAddress: 2760 TERNB StRapid city, S.D. 57203Phone (optional): 209-1765

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

I have lived on South Valley since 1998  
the light at intersection has never been a  
problem when pulling out you always had  
to be careful of someone running the red  
light so if you chose to not replace it  
feel you need to cut down bushes to west  
and relocate all power poles and shrubbery  
at no cost to city and slow the speed limit  
down to 35 mph.

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**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Community Room - CSAC

Name: Dottie KruthoffAddress: 2403 S. Valley DrRC SD 57703Phone (optional): 430-9021

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

We want the light put back !!! We know what your study says. But you don't live on S. Valley so you don't know the dangers. Several people have been hit there - at the fault of traffic from St. Pat. I was killed - As to why we got the light in the 1st place - As a mother of children of driving age - its a comfort to have the light for their safety. They are young and don't know all the dangers of defensive driving. If we can't have a light then a 4-way STOP would be a great help to get on St. Pat. And a STREET LIGHT at the corner. for safety would be of great help. After all that neighborhood is very dark.

Over

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Item #20

Stew traffic to 35<sup>th</sup> on St. Pat. Because people are driving 50 to 60 miles per hour. And no cop in sight to give a ticket. Have a Cop out there sitting at Valley Sports Bar. to give out tickets.

try crossing on foot to go to left side. and damn near get killed -

A Street light on Hwy 44 E At Valley F would be of great help to get on 44 E going west. Most times you have to go East get in turn lane go thru Loas & Tug parking lot, turn around there to go west.

**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Community Room - CSAC

Name: NEAL H. HODGES IIAddress: 2327 S. Valley DrivePhone (optional): 605 342 7011

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

The Light MUST BE REPLACED!!What is The annual maintenance cost? What is The cost of a life?

I have live there over 20 years during that time there have been many accidents at the intersection. When the Bar went in so did the traffic light and the accidents dropped. When the sensor worked we had a reasonable wait to cross the intersection (or make a turn west)! I believe your "Study" is fatally flawed! Traffic counts were done in February when traffic is at near its lowest volume. We have high school students who ~~have~~ <sup>HAVE</sup> to drive (or be driven) to school because no bus service is available. They are inexperienced and in a rush and are an accident waiting to happen, why help them die? What happens when a parent or loved one ~~files~~ <sup>files</sup> a negligence lawsuit.

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over

The changes proposed to The Intersection (Remove Trees, poles etc) to improve visibility are good however it should have been Done years ago. ~~Not~~ Not only are The trees a vision hazard they are also an ICE ENabler!

The Traffic signal did enable people To cross from Highway 44 on to Valley drive with the knowledge that there would be a reasonable wait To cross Saint Patrick Street and continue on to S. Valley. Now you need to continue on to The St. Patrick/44 Light make a right turn go back to ~~S.~~ S. Valley and then still cross Traffic to get on S. Valley, or you can take your chances and cross as you used to.

You are not making my life any safer by not replacing this light. Replace the Light do the right thing.

~~Not~~

**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010  
6:30 – 8:00 PM  
Community Room - CSAC

Name: Wayne Winchell  
Address: 1917 S Valley DR  
RC SD 57703  
Phone (optional): 342-3964  
Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to see the light  
fixed as I go thru intersection several  
times per day.  
What will happen to the money  
if it don't get fixed. Ted X say  
they will pay to fix it.

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**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Community Room - CSAC

Name: Tracy BeckAddress: 3140 Cyclone St. #26Rapid City, SD 57703Phone (optional): (605) 791-4776

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

I felt much safer with the traffic light at the intersection, however, since you are not going to put it back up, Please consider at least putting the street lamp back up to illuminate the area.

PLEASE time the traffic lights at Creek + Hwy 44 so that it gives people a chance to take a left during busy hours.

PLEASE remove the trees + brush that are blocking the view of oncoming traffic.

PLEASE move the poles that are seriously blocking view of the oncoming traffic.

All I want to do is drive to work + get to where I need to go in ONE piece. 45 MPH ~he ha ha ha ha ha

(I don't even drive 45 mph on St. Patrick Street.)

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more →  
on back Item #20



PLEASE also consider expanding the road to include a right turn only lane.

**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Community Room - CSAC

Name: Amy WebbAddress: 2800 Cactus Dr

Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

This stop light that was taken away from us this year has made a terrible turn for the worse in going to work in the morning. People drive really fast on this road & now there is no stop light to slow them down, <sup>for</sup> the people who live in this area going to & from work. It's beneficial to have this stop light in the morning to blink yellow <sup>from</sup> ~~until~~ <sup>12am</sup> ~~10pm~~ ~~to 7am~~ to help people turn left at the light to get work without feeling threatened from the <sup>fast</sup> coming traffic.

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**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010  
6:30 – 8:00 PM  
Community Room - CSAC

Name: Andy OudaAddress: 3033 S. Valley Dr.Rapid City SD 57703Phone (optional): 431-9496Email (optional): ZIP3412@RAP.MIDCO.NET

I want this light replaced the way it was!  
There was a REASON the light was put up  
there to start with and if you would check  
the police records you would see the accident  
reports before the light was there. The  
traffic is even worse today than before the  
light was there.

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**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Community Room - CSAC

Name: Kathy WebbAddress: 2801 Cactus Dr

Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

I want the traffic light!!!  
I want flashing yellow light till 7 AM  
It is very busy & has gotten very dangerous  
with only the 2 way stop sign.

Thank-You

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**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Community Room - CSAC

Name: Terry ListerAddress: 2930 Melody LaneRapid City SD 57703Phone (optional): 342-8815

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

After 20 yrs of no accidents, with my car, I HAVE HAD ONE  
at this intersection. The loss of this light is a MAJOR IMPACT  
on our neighborhood. Also it is a DETERENT to the CROSS  
TRAFFIC on E. ST. PAT. To NOT Replace this light is A GROSS  
MISCONDUCT ON THE CITY'S PART. WE NEED this light for our  
SAFETY.

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**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010  
6:30 – 8:00 PM  
Community Room - CSAC

Name: Crystal SailerAddress: 2930 melody  
Rapid City SD 57703Phone (optional): 342-8815

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

We need to have the stop light back.  
It will be safer for us trying to get  
out of south Valley Dr. During Rush hours  
It takes a long time to get through.  
It cost nothing to Put Back but will cost  
not too.

Crystal Sailer

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**COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF REMOVING  
TRAFFIC SIGNAL**

## **Rationale for NOT having traffic lights at the intersection of East St. Patrick and South Valley Drive**

### **1. Traffic flow:**

- a. Since the bypass was built, the traffic on East St. Pat has decreased a great deal.
- b. Traffic studies have shown there is no need for lights at this intersection.
- c. Without the lights, traffic flows smoothly with no inconvenience to drivers.
- d. In fact, the wait experienced by cross traffic at the stop sign is far less than waiting for the lights to change.

### **2. Safety:**

- a. Please consider that a stop sign actually requires the driver to stop and look both ways before entering the intersection.
- b. Whereas, with lights, drivers tend to pull out as soon as their light turns green without looking right or left. Oftentimes, vehicles traveling legally at 45 mph on East St. Pat are unable to stop and consequently run the red light, sometimes with dire consequences.
- c. An earlier argument for the lights was because kids walked to the Rapid Valley school when it was located by Twilight and Highway 44. This is no longer a valid argument given that the school has not been at that site for several years now.
- d. If some deem it important to have lights at this intersection, this begs the question as to why there are no lights at the next intersection where South Valley Drive meets Highway 44. There has been no outcry for lights there and yet that is a much busier intersection than the East St. Pat and South Valley Drive intersection.

Respectfully submitted by:

\* Curt and Margaret Simonson  
1903 South Valley Drive

(We have lived on the corner of East St. Pat and South Valley Drive for 20 years.)

341-1783



**Less John**

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**From:** Vespested Brenda  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2010 3:43 PM  
**To:** Less John; Tech Dale  
**Subject:** E Saint Patrick & S Valley Drive Traffic Signal

Dennis McNabb – 2603 E Saint Francis St. Dennis called and cannot make the neighborhood meeting tonight about the stoplight at E Saint Patrick St and S Valley Drive. He would like to voice his opinion about the intersection – he wants to see the bushes at the corner removed because in his opinion this is why there have been accidents, and doesn't want the stoplight put back up because people cut through his street when the traffic signal was in place.

*Brenda Vespested*

Administrative Assistant  
Public Works Department  
City of Rapid City  
300 6th Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
605-394-4165

**Less John**

---

**From:** Sattler Patty  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2010 3:35 PM  
**To:** Tech Dale; Less John  
**Subject:** Concerned Citizen

A gentleman called in to say he could not make the meeting tonight regarding the light at E St Patrick and South Valley Dr, & wanted us to know that the problem is not the light. but the bushes. He does not care whether there is a light there or not, but the bushes need to be taken care of. He states people drive too fast to begin with then they don't have a clear visual field to see the other traffic.

Thanks,

Patty

**Less John**

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**From:** Vespested Brenda  
**Sent:** Friday, March 05, 2010 11:51 AM  
**To:** Tech Dale; Less John  
**Subject:** E St Pat & S Valley Dr Stoplight Opinion

Mrs. Knecht called today at 11:30 am to let us know that she thinks that the stoplight was a nuisance and the City should save it's money and not put it back up.

*Brenda Vespested*

Administrative Assistant  
Public Works Department  
City of Rapid City  
300 6th Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
605-394-4165

**Less John**

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**From:** Brumbaugh Don  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 06, 2010 7:50 AM  
**To:** 'Weyland Anderson'  
**Cc:** Tech Dale; Less John; Ellis Robert  
**Subject:** RE: Traffic Control light St. Patrick and S. Valley Drive

Thank you for your comments. I will get them to the proper folks.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Weyland Anderson [mailto:weylandrnsn@rap.midco.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 05, 2010 6:15 PM  
**To:** Brumbaugh Don  
**Subject:** Traffic Control light St. Patrick and S. Valley Drive

Mr. Brumbaugh,

I do not think I will be able to attend the meeting regarding the traffic light on East St. Patrick and South Valley Drive.

I would like state my opinion that there is no need for a traffic control light at that intersection.

I drive past through that intersection at least twice daily and seldom see a vehicle waiting to access St. Patrick from South Valley Drive.

When the light was in place the only function it seemed to serve was to impede the flow of traffic on St. Patrick Street.

I believe if a traffic study of the intersection were undertaken the result would support my observations.

Thanks,  
Weyland Anderson  
(605) 390-2323  
[weylandrnsn@rap.midco.net](mailto:weylandrnsn@rap.midco.net)

**Less John**

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**From:** Tech Dale  
**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2010 8:22 AM  
**To:** Less John  
**Subject:** FW: St. Patrick & S. Valley Driver

John,

Here is the e-mail from Doug Kinniburgh.

Dale

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**From:** digdugki@aol.com [mailto:digdugki@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2010 4:31 PM  
**To:** Tech Dale  
**Subject:** St. Patrick & S. Valley Driver

Mr. Tech,

I am well aware that the DOT had previously stated that the signal was no longer warranted after the SE Connector was constructed and that the City had approached Pennington County on its removal and was denied. I wish to thank the City of Rapid City for their hesitation and further review of the need for the traffic signal at the above referenced intersection. I would also hope that Pennington County would also consider the negative impact an unwarranted signal has on the majority of the users.

I have live south of this intersection for the last 5 years. Leading up to the December accident which took out the signal, it was very common that I would witness red-light runners on my way to and from work. The frequency of this was usually 3-4 times per week and most of the violators were traveling EB on St. Patrick. We have 5 licensed drivers in my household and I had always pointed out to my family of this danger and previously encourage them to enter the intersection with caution even with the green light. Since the accident, my family has commented to me that the delay is far less with the stop signs then it was with the signal and it is very easy to find a gap to make the turns that we wish to make. I understand that some of my fellow neighbors have complained about the signal not being replaced, however, the majority of the traffic who passes through the intersection is not bothered with unnecessary excess delay.

Again thank you for your continued review as it is common knowledge in the transportation industry that an unwarranted signal will cause more accidents then it is intended to prevent.

Doug Kinniburgh  
 3010 S. Valley Dr.  
 Rapid City, SD 57703  
 605.393.0569

REG: TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT  
THE INTERSECTION OF 3/8/10  
E. ST. PATRICK ST. + S. VALLEY DR.

GOOD EVENING: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;  
 MY NAME IS PAUL MARTINEZ. I'VE  
 HELD A CDL LICENSE FOR 30 YR'S, LIVED  
 IN THE S. VALLEY DR. AREA FOR 20  
 YEARS AND I HAVE 9 YR'S OF HIWAY.  
 MAINT. EXPERIANCE.

IT'S MY OPINION THE "ISSUE" AT  
 THE INTERSECTION OF EAST ST,  
 PATRICK ST. + S. VALLEY DR HAS ALWAYS  
 BEEN A "LACK OF VISABILITY."

I BELEIVE THAT INTERSECTION  
 WOULD BE ALOT SAFER; TRAFFIC  
 LATE'S WOULD NO LONGER NEEDED +  
 THE TWO STOP SIGN'S NOW IN SERVICE  
 WOULD BE ADEQUATE IF THE (RIGHT  
OF WAY) WAS CLEARED OF OBSTACLE'S  
 HAMPERING VIEW'S, SUCH AS BRUSH  
 + TREE'S ALONG THE (SOUTH WEST SIDE)  
 OLD TELEPHONE POLES NO LONGER  
 NEEDED + OBSTACLE'S ALONG THE  
 (NORTH EAST SIDE) OF THAT

INTERSECTION,  
 YOUR TIME!

THANK YOU FOR

RESPECTFULLY;

Melina Paul Martinez  
 2508 S. VALLEY DR. #8  
 RAPID CITY, S DAK 57208

RECEIVED

MAR 8 2010

ENGINEERING DIVISION

(605) 343-3184

Item #20

MAR 18 2010

**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE—COMMENT SHEET**RAPID CITY  
PUBLIC WORKS

St. Patrick St./Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
Community Room – CSACWarren Saffry  
5215 S Sunnyside Dr  
Rapid City, SD 57701-8575

I am a mail carrier who has passed through the intersection—south on Valley Drive, then left onto St. Patrick—five days a week for a number of years. My passage is much quicker and smoother since the signal was removed. As it was a timed signal, it often changed when there was little traffic on either street. I spent a good deal of time staring at a virtually empty St. Patrick while waiting for the light to change. When it did change, I often had to wait for a line of traffic south of St. Patrick to clear before I could make my left turn. Several times I was almost struck by vehicles running the red light on St. Patrick.

Since the signal was removed, I can quickly and safely take advantage of holes in the (light) St. Patrick traffic. Seldom do I have to yield to northbound vehicles on Valley Drive. Traffic on St. Patrick can cruise right through—no need to watch for an arbitrary signal.

I was greatly impressed by the study presented at the meeting—I believe they have it exactly right. There is no need for a signal; the intersection is probably safer and more efficient without it.

**Less John**

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**From:** Batman, Linda [lbatman@diorc.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2010 9:44 AM  
**To:** Less John  
**Subject:** East St Patrick stop light

Dear Mr Less:

Due to "Math Night" at Rapid Valley School for my daughter, I was unable to attend the public meeting last night on the East St Patrick Street stop light. If possible, I would still like to comment on the issue.

I have lived in the Valley for nine years and 80% of the time I take East St Patrick Street for my trips into town. I have always felt that light was a hazard. In wintery weather, I cannot tell you how many times I have almost slid through the light or into the car in front of me (or almost hit from behind). With all the traffic stopping in that area, the road becomes very slippery just before the light and even though you are driving carefully due to weather conditions, sometimes it's very hard to come to a stop. Just this morning, as I was driving in to work, I thought about how nice it is to keep driving and not have to worry about that slippery intersection.

The other point I would like to make is that I know there are some people who want the stop light replaced because of individuals crossing the street. I know the original purpose of the light was mostly for children crossing the street to get to Valley View School. In the past nine years, I can say that I have never seen anyone crossing East St Patrick Street at or near that light. I travel through that intersection at various times of the day and night and I truly have never seen anyone crossing or waiting to cross in that area. Especially now with Valley View School moved to a different location, I don't see the need for the light. (I have also never seen children walking across Hwy 44 to get to and from Valley View School when it was in its original location. Personally, I would NEVER let my children walk across that road!)

We have a close friend who, about three years ago, was traveling home on East St Patrick heading towards Hwy 44. It was about 8:00 in the evening and no other car was in that intersection. It was a wintery night and as he was stopping because of the light turning red, he ended up sliding out of control and smashing into a tree. My point is that it's not just the danger of having an accident with other cars, but a severe accident can happen to just one vehicle because of having to stop at that light.

I have tried to see the other side of the issue and the only reason I can see as a purpose for the light is for traffic traveling in the opposite direction. But even when I have come to the intersection traveling north or south, I prefer the stop sign. It seems a much safer option since you have to look in both directions for on-coming traffic, rather than trusting the light when there is the possibility of someone running or sliding through the intersection. (And the wait time is shorter too!)

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns over this issue. I hope my comments will be of some assistance as you come to a determination regarding the light.

Sincerely,

Linda Batman  
 4827 Sand Creek Crt  
 Rapid City, SD 57703  
 791-4992



**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010  
6:30 – 8:00 PM  
Community Room - CSAC

Name: Enoch PashbyAddress: 2525 Long Acre DrPhone (optional): 209-7924

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

I do not see any point in replacing the traffic light. After it was knocked down I have never spent more than a few seconds waiting to go. There are no longer lines of vehicles. And most importantly there are no longer people "gunning" it to make it through the light. I feel much safer at that intersection now, and I am MUCH more comfortable with my wife and kids going across St Patric on their way to school. If the light is replaced I would like to see it operational with a trip device from the hours of 7 to 8:30 AM and 4:30 to 6:00 PM. The rest of the day it could be flashing <sup>Yellow</sup> ~~Red~~ for St Pat and ~~Red~~ Red for S Valley Drive.

RETURN TO: City of Rapid City  
Engineering Services  
300 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
FAX 394-6905  
Email john.less@rcgov.org

**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Community Room - CSAC

Name: Bob FuchsAddress: 3301 S. Valley Dr.  
RC, SD 57703Phone (optional): 381-1235

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Please do not put the light back in.  
Traffic moves much better without it.

If you do put it back in, please  
install a trip-device rather than the  
timed-type of light.

Thank you !

Bob Fuchs

## RETURN TO:

City of Rapid City  
Engineering Services  
300 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
FAX 394-6905  
Email john.less@rcgov.org

**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – COMMENT SHEET**

St. Patrick St. / Valley Dr. Traffic Signal

Tuesday, March 9, 2010  
6:30 – 8:00 PM  
Community Room - CSAC

Name: Gus JohnsonAddress: 1234 Ziebach  
RC SD 57203

Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

The intersection is much safer  
without the light. I go through  
the intersection frequently and I rarely  
notice anyone waiting at the stop  
signs.

RETURN TO: City of Rapid City  
Engineering Services  
300 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
FAX 394-6905  
Email [john.less@rcgov.org](mailto:john.less@rcgov.org)