



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 20, 2026

From: Cory Bienfang, PE – City Engineer
Maury Hooper, PE – City Traffic Engineer

To: Jim Tatge – Construction & Facilities Services Director

Subject: Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPI) – Next Steps

City staff recommend advancing a phased approach to evaluate and implement Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs) at select signalized intersections in the City of Mankato.

LPIs are an acknowledged pedestrian safety improvement supported by transportation safety professionals and have been recommended through multiple local and area traffic studies, particularly at intersections and corridors identified as pedestrian hot spots. Local advocacy groups have also requested implementation of LPIs to enhance pedestrian safety. Advancing this initiative aligns with the City of Mankato's Complete Streets policy and the City's broader commitment to improving safety and accessibility for all roadway users.

Staff recommend moving forward with the following two-phase strategy to ensure LPI implementation is data-driven, operationally appropriate, and responsive to community input.

Phase 1: Feasibility Analysis and Pilot Implementation (2026)

Staff recommend initiating Phase 1 activities in 2026 to assess feasibility and implement a pilot LPI program at multiple locations.

Recommended Phase 1 actions include:

- Prepare a feasibility report outlining LPI best practices, anticipated safety benefits, operational considerations, and applicability to signalized intersections within Mankato.
- Screen candidate intersections to determine compatibility for LPI operation based on traffic operations, pedestrian volumes, crash history, intersection geometry, and proximity to schools and key pedestrian destinations.
- Coordinate internally to identify and prioritize a set of pilot locations.
- Conduct a public meeting targeted for June 2026 to introduce the LPI concept, share proposed pilot locations, and receive public feedback.
- Conduct education campaign prior to pilot implementation to educate the public (e.g., common driver and pedestrian) on what are LPIs and how they work.
- Identify performance measures and criteria to define pilot success by August 15, 2026 (e.g., operational impacts, observed safety outcomes, maintenance considerations, and public feedback).
- Implement an LPI pilot project at multiple signalized intersections no later than August 15, 2026, in advance of the 2026–2027 school year.

Leading the Way as a Prosperous Diverse Regional Community

•Responsive

•Efficient

•Greater Good

•Innovative

•Open

•Neighborhoodly

Phase 2: Pilot Evaluation and Policy Development (2026–Fall 2027)

Staff recommend proceeding with Phase 2 following pilot implementation to evaluate performance and establish long-term guidance for LPI use in the City.

Recommended Phase 2 actions include:

- Prepare a feasibility and evaluation report assessing general performance of the LPI pilot locations, including operational impacts, observed safety outcomes, and maintenance considerations.
- Evaluate public reception of the LPI pilot through stakeholder feedback, public input, and field observations.
- Continue monitoring pilot locations through 2027 to assess longer-term trends and consistency.
- Develop and present a formal City of Mankato Leading Pedestrian Interval Policy, establishing guidance for future application of LPIs as part of signal projects, corridor studies, and safety initiatives.

Staff anticipate completion of Phase 2 by Fall 2027, at which time the city will be positioned to determine whether and how LPIs should be expanded more broadly across the signal system.