Traffic Signals

I want to request a location for a traffic signal.

What do I need to know? What do I need to do?

Traffic signals in the Township either "run free" or are coordinated together with upstream and downstream traffic signals on key corridors. Traffic signals that "run free" have a base amount of green time for each direction that may extend when additional vehicles approach the intersection.

Coordinated traffic signals use historical traffic counts on key corridors at peak periods of the day to determine optimal signal timing through dedicated software. The objective is to minimize overall delay by waiting vehicles. Vehicles on the side street may wait longer in an effort to reduce delay to main street traffic that carries more vehicles on it.

How do traffic signals detect vehicles?

The Township typically uses cameras to detect waiting vehicles. Vehicles must stop in the appropriate location behind the stop bar for detection. Some older intersections use inductive loops, in which case waiting vehicles must stop on top of the loop for detection. The Township does not record video from cameras used to detect vehicles.

How can I request a location for a traffic signal?

Submit location requests to enginfo@tol.ca. The Township will evaluate locations in accordance with the criteria outlined in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Canada published by the Transportation Association of Canada. Evaluation criteria include traffic and pedestrian volumes, intersection geometry, speed limit, vehicle-vehicle conflicts, vehicle-pedestrian conflicts, the vehicle delays for main road and side road, adjacent land use, and collision history at the location as well as other factors. Implementation is subject to funding availability through the annual capital budget process.

ENG18-535

Questions about traffic signals?

Contact the Engineering Division at 604.533.6006.
Hours of operation: Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.