



CITY OF
EAST GRAND RAPIDS

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DOUG LAFAVE
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners
FROM: Doug La Fave, Deputy City Manager
DATE: January 6, 2025

RE: Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon Policy Update

Action Requested: That the City Commission consider amending the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) policy to allow authorization for installation and purchasing within programmed budgets to the Director of Public Works in addition to other noted edits.

Background: A formal policy and associated guidelines related to RRFBs was adopted in 2018 (though RRFB installations were previously permitted in accordance with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) interim approval under pilot authorization by licensed traffic engineers). RRFBs are pedestrian-actuated conspicuity enhancements used in combination with a pedestrian, school, or trail crossing warning signs to improve safety at uncontrolled marked crosswalk locations. Currently there are eleven RRFB devices installed throughout the city.

Authorization is delegated to the Director of Public Works, in accordance with the policies and guidelines, however the City Commission also retains authorization authority if the Director of Public Works defers to the City Commission. Additionally, under “conditions for use/placement” additional authorization authority is noted for licensed traffic engineers and associated agencies, organizations, and manuals to cover potential unique situations or circumstances as well as their evolution going forward. Other edits noted in the policies are in accordance with a review of the policies internally by city staff and review by traffic engineering consultants from Progressive Companies.

The proposed amendments will allow for expedited installations throughout the community in accordance with the policy and guideline criteria.

This has been reviewed by the Infrastructure Committee.

REVIEWED & APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

Shea Charles
City Manager