

Hwy 12 Litchfield – Pedestrian Flashing Beacon Test



Test summary

The current traffic signal at the intersection of Hwy 12 and 3rd St. in Litchfield no longer meets standards. MnDOT has made the recommendation to replace the signal with the planned reconstruction of Highway 12 in downtown Litchfield in 2020. A detailed traffic analysis was conducted before making this recommendation. MnDOT would not recommend removing a traffic signal without studying the intersection closely, looking at both the current situation as well as future potential growth. The objective of the pedestrian flashing beacon test is to confirm the recommendation for the traffic control change and to allow the public to experience the change before it is permanent.

The traffic signal at Hwy 12 & 3rd Street was turned off and the pedestrian flashing beacon was installed/operational on October 24, 2017. The testing period lasted 90 days. Public feedback was sought 30 days into the testing period and in mid-January 2018 towards the end of the 90 day testing period.

Testing of the pedestrian flashing beacon ended January 22, 2018. The pedestrian device was removed and the traffic signal is fully operational.

MnDOT and the City of Litchfield would like to thank the over 908 individuals that took the time to share their opinions since the removal of the traffic signal. Results from traffic studies and public feedback taken throughout the 90-day testing period have been shared with the public and members of the Litchfield City Council.

Traffic study results

- 92% of drivers yielded to pedestrians when the pedestrian flashing beacon was activated.
- Pedestrians experienced a 57% reduction in delay when crossing Hwy 12 with the pedestrian flashing beacon.
- Drivers on Hwy 12 experienced a 47% reduction in delay with the removal of the traffic signal.
- Drivers on 3rd Street driving east/west experienced a 13% reduction in delay with the removal of the traffic signal.

90-day survey summary

MnDOT promoted an on-line survey on the functioning of the Hwy 12 & 3rd St. intersection from January 12, 2018 – January 20, 2018. Please note that respondents were not required to answer all questions. The purpose of the survey was to gather public feedback near the end of the 90-day testing period. MnDOT promoted the survey utilizing the following methods:

- Press release to local media
- Facebook posts
- Twitter posts
- E-mail to Hwy 12 distribution list
- Litchfield Chamber of Commerce e-mail to membership

Survey results (467 respondents)

Demographics (gender)

- Male - 153
- Female - 301

Demographics (age)

- Under 18: 7
- 18-24: 55
- 25-34: 90
- 35-44: 113
- 45-54: 91
- 55-64: 73
- 65-74: 26
- 75+: 3

Demographics (ethnicity)

- Caucasian – 445
- Hispanic or Latino – 1
- Other – 2
- Prefer not to answer – 19

Question	Responses
When traveling north/south on Hwy 12 does it take you less time to drive through the intersection with the removal of the traffic signal and the installation of the pedestrian flashing beacon?	Yes: 235 No: 176 Not sure: 45 I haven't driven the intersection: 6
When turning north/south from 3rd St. onto Hwy 12 does it take you less time to drive through the intersection with the removal of the traffic signal and the installation of the pedestrian flashing beacon?	Yes: 105 No: 309 Not sure: 33 I haven't driven the intersection: 14
When driving east/west on 3rd St. does it take you less time to drive through the intersection with the removal of the traffic signal and the installation of the pedestrian flashing beacon?	Yes: 91 No: 300 Not sure: 38 I haven't driven the intersection: 28
Since the traffic signal was shut down and the pedestrian flashing beacon installed, have you changed how you drive within the city of Litchfield?	Yes: 323 No: 136 Not sure: 6
As a pedestrian, how effective did you feel the pedestrian flashing beacon worked in assisting you in crossing Hwy 12?	Very to Somewhat effective: 124 Not effective: 171 Not sure: 11 I haven't walked through the intersection: 160
As a pedestrian, how satisfied are you with the operation of the pedestrian flashing beacon in assisting you in crossing Hwy 12?	Very to Somewhat satisfied: 105 Not satisfied: 200 Not sure: 16 I haven't walked through the intersection: 145
Overall, how satisfied are you with the functioning of the intersection since the traffic signal was turned off and the pedestrian flashing beacon was installed?	Very to Somewhat satisfied: 142 Not satisfied: 310 Not sure: 11

For more information on the Hwy 12 project visit the website at www.mndot.gov/d8/projects/hwy12litchfield.

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