

LOCATION:

Holyoke, MA

CLIENT:

City of Holyoke
Engineering Department

PROJECT TYPE:

Intersection Safety Audit

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Analyzed Existing Intersection & Made
Recommendations to Improve:

- Operations
- Sight Lines
- Overall Safety



The City of Holyoke requested an intersection safety audit for a “t-shaped” intersection in the City which experienced a high frequency of crashes.

Acting on the crash history and perceived safety issues, a City Councilor requested the installation of a flashing beacon. The City recognized that there were a number of safety related issues, and rather than capriciously installing a flashing beacon, requested an intersection audit.

An intersection safety audit is a tool used by a design team, either before or after the construction of a project with a defined goal of making an intersection as safe as possible. In general, the outcome of an intersection safety audit is the recognition of potential issues. These issues come thorough the examination of roadway geometry and roadway operations, imagining potential issues and highlighting existing problems.

The audit’s purpose was to inspect the existing conditions of the intersection of High Street and Lyman Street and to insure that it is operating at its best possible efficiency and with the best possible safety.

The analysis inventoried existing conditions including crash data, roadway geometry, traffic volumes, crash history, intersection control at this location and its relationship to other intersections in the corridor, as well as vehicle speeds at the intersection. The report summarized the findings, provided a safety audit of the existing conditions of the intersection, and provided recommended improvements. The analysis brought two potential safety issues to the foreground: lack of intersection sight distance and lack of consistency of intersection control leading to an unexpected stop controlled “T” intersection.

A signal warrant analysis was also performed. Based on the existing conditions and volumes, it was determined that a signal was not warranted.

In an effort to produce cost-effective, realistic solutions, a number of short/long-term cost effective solutions were recommended to the City. Suggestions included modifying the existing signage, installing additional signage, and restricting parking. The City is currently evaluating the report’s recommendations in an effort to identify those improvements that best complement the limited financial resources available.