

## Duke Street Traffic Mitigation Pilot Phase II - FAQs

### What is the purpose of this pilot?

In response to community concerns about the impact to quality of life from regional cut through traffic on local streets, the City is using these pilots to test signal timing and changes to traffic patterns to make it faster for cut-through traffic to use major roadways instead of local streets. The project goals are to:

- Minimize impacts to neighbor streets by reducing cut-through traffic by 30% from the before period
- Minimize the cut-through traffic on West Taylor Run by 20%
- Improve travel times on Duke Street
- Reduce the length of queues on Duke Street, especially the queue from West Taylor Run and Duke Street onto the Telegraph Road ramp

### What is the purpose of the second phase of the pilot project?

The first phase of the pilot project successfully reduced cut-through traffic from residential streets to the arterials. The phase I report can be found [here](#). The purpose of this project is to re-implement phase I measures, improve the ramp congestion stemming from the Duke Street and West Taylor Run signal, and further reduced cut-through traffic on residential streets.

### What changes are being made?

Phase I measures such as signal timing along Quaker Lane and Duke Street is being changed to provide additional green time. Side Streets such as West Taylor Run Parkway and Cambridge Road will have longer red lights. As well, a physical temporary divider will be installed between the ramp lane and the eastbound Duke Street travel lanes, preventing vehicles from West Taylor Run entering the ramp from eastbound Duke Street. A constant green signal will be provided for the Duke Street to Telegraph Road ramp movement, unless a pedestrian pushes the button.

### If I live in the neighborhood, how might I be impacted?

If you are trying to leave the neighborhood you might have longer wait times to get onto Duke Street. Initially, there could be longer queues on the side streets until people shift their behavior. As well, vehicles from West Taylor Run must use other means to access the Telegraph Road Ramp at the West Taylor Run and Duke Street signal. Travel times could increase by 1-3 minutes, depending on the time of day. Diagram of possible routes can be found [here](#).

### How are the other traffic signals impacted based on the re-routed traffic from West Taylor Run?

City staff will optimize traffic signals, such as the one at Dove Street and Duke Street, to provide for the safest and most efficient operations during the pilot project. However, the city does expect drivers to change travel patterns which will result in less traffic on residential roadways and side streets.

### What are the city's plans to improve nearby intersection congestion and safety as part of this project?

City staff will continue to monitor nearby intersections during the course of the pilot program. Any recommendations or issues may be addressed in upcoming capital projects or possibly future pilot programs. Results would be shared in reports following the Duke Street Phase II pilot. There is potential for shorter-term improvements depending on the findings and feasibility.

### What is the timeframe for the pilot?

The pilot will run all week and all day from September 12, 2022 - March 31, 2023.

**How will the City evaluate traffic conditions?**

The City will use the StreetLight Data, Inc. platform to analyze before and after travel times, traffic volumes and travel routes to determine if travel patterns shifted due to the signal timing changes.

**How has the community been involved?**

Many civic associations in the area and their leadership have partnered with the City design the pilot, including the duration of the pilot, streets to be evaluated, and criteria and measures of success. Staff [presented](#) at civic association meetings and hosted a public meeting to get feedback on the pilots. You can find both recordings under the “Community Engagement” section on the [project website](#).

**Will the residents who use the service road to access their homes between West Taylor Run Parkway and Cambridge Road be impacted?**

Possibly. There could be longer wait times to return or leave home during peak hours. However, with longer green times for the service road, there might not be an impact. The evaluation plan includes travel times to and from these locations, and staff will evaluate the impact of the changes on these residents as well volumes on the street.

**How are pedestrians crossing on the Telegraph Road Ramp at West Taylor Run and Duke Street impacted?**

Pedestrians will be able to cross as they normally do now. The traffic signal light for Duke Street onto the ramp will stay green unless a pedestrian pushes the button – then the signal will turn red and ALL traffic must stop.

**What is this pilot doing for pedestrian and cyclist safety?**

Staff will be monitoring pedestrian activity during the pilot phase II. Additional walk time will be added across Duke Street and there will be less pedestrian-vehicle conflicts across West Taylor Run. The information and feedback from the pilot will be used to inform possible future pedestrian safety improvements with larger capital projects.

**How will cars be prevented from turning onto the Telegraph Ramp from West Taylor Run?**

City staff will install flexible posts, the same as the ones currently dividing the ramp lane from the eastbound Duke Street lanes, to prevent vehicles from entering the ramp from West Taylor Run. These temporary devices allow emergency vehicles to quickly access the ramp.

**Can I still turn left onto Duke Street from West Taylor Run?**

Yes, drivers from West Taylor Run can still turn left onto Duke Street but cannot directly access the ramp from eastbound Duke Street onto the Telegraph Road.

**If successful, what is the City’s plans to make this pilot permanent?**

Two projects will impact this intersection and Duke Street in the future, the [West Taylor Run and Duke Street project](#) and the [Duke Street Transitway project](#). This pilot project will help inform both projects on how to successfully and safely implement the solutions and lessons from the Duke Street Traffic Mitigation pilot. The pilot will determine if the access restriction should be in place until the larger capital projects are constructed.

**How will the City take feedback during the pilot?**

An online feedback form will be posted on the project website so people can provide continuous feedback for the duration of the pilot.

**I would like to send my feedback or questions to the City about this mitigation project, who should I contact prior to implementation?**

After reviewing the FAQs and project website for information, feedback and questions can be sent to [Hillary.Orr@Alexandria.gov](mailto:Hillary.Orr@Alexandria.gov). After the pilot begins, the Traffic and Parking Board will hold a public hearing on September 29<sup>th</sup> to determine if the pilot should continue through March.

**How can I stay informed about opportunities to get informed and provide input on the Duke Street Transitway and Duke Street at West Taylor Run projects?**

Information will be posted on the project websites and the [City calendar](#). You can also follow TES on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. You can also sign up for [City eNews](#) alerts for Duke Street Projects by selecting Duke Street Projects under Transportation Alerts.