

AH Then & Now – Broad St at Farmington Avenue



These two photos above of Farmington and Broad, are especially interesting because both of them are dated. The one on the left is from February 5, 1914 and the one on the right August 23, 1916, two and a half years apart.

The first is looking east and the second west, but what is most interesting is the addition of a street lamp in the middle of Broad St. At the time, outdoor lighting and underground wiring was just becoming a possibility. And with more and more automobiles on the road, even after dark it was important for them to see each other in the dark. Traffic lights in Hartford were still a few years off since the first traffic light in the US was in Cleveland Ohio in August of 1914, but progress was in the air and each succeeding improvement must have felt to people then, like the new iPhone. Below of course is this same intersection, and now that Broad St goes through to Cogswell, which didn't exist at the time, we have a whole different set of problems to deal with. Hopefully centrally controlled timing and on site cameras will be our next safety solution.

