

Middlesex Beach Association  
PO Box 173  
Bethany Beach, DE 19930

March 23, 2006

Tom Meyer  
Traffic Studies Engineer  
Delaware Department of Transportation  
169 Brick Store Landing Road  
Smyrna, DE 19977

Dear Mr. Meyer,

As President of the Middlesex Beach Association Board of Directors, I followed the exchange of correspondence that has largely taken place between Bruce Schoonover and you regarding pedestrian safety as it applies to the portion of Route 1 which passes through our community.

The Board wishes to thank you and DelDOT for your interest and concern, and for the placing of the pedestrian signs and the turning arrows at strategic locations along Route 1 in Middlesex Beach. We are quite certain that these steps have, and will continue, to make for safer crossing conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists.

With regard to the potential for a traffic light at Bridge Road, the entire Board believes that this too would add to the safety of all of our Route 1 crossings, not only by bringing down the speed of the traffic along this stretch of highway, but also by creating more finite gaps in traffic which would allow pedestrians more certainty in crossing.

While we appreciate that your department conducted an official Pedestrian Warrant Study at the Route 1 intersection with Bridge Road last summer, I think we were all surprised to see the low rate of pedestrian crossings (and in particular to see how many more pedestrians pass thru this intersection **along** Route 1 than **across** Route 1).

So we find ourselves investigating other options. We are curious about the concept of pedestrian activated flashing lights embedded in the roadway, which I believe have been installed in the Rehoboth Beach area. Are there any similar pedestrian volume requirements that would need to be met before installing this type of system?

While the existing traffic light at the Evergreen Road intersection does cause a brief gap in the flow of northbound traffic along Route 1, the main beneficiary of this red light is the eastbound traffic on Evergreen Road which turns left and heads north along Route 1 through our community.

Likewise, while the existing traffic light at Pennsylvania Avenue does cause a brief gap in the flow of southbound traffic along Route 1, the main beneficiary of this red light are the two lanes of southbound traffic on Pennsylvania Avenue, which veer left and head south along Route 1 through our community.

In each case, we feel that the gaps in traffic created by these two lights are extremely short in duration, and continue to raise an unnecessary hazard for pedestrians of all ages. We feel that this type of warning system would help alleviate this situation.

Again, our thanks for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

David Wiecking  
President, Board of Directors  
Middlesex Beach Association