



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
800 BAY ROAD
P.O. Box 778
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

CAROLANN WICKS, P.E.
SECRETARY

May 3, 2006

Mr. David Wiecking
President, Board of Directors
Middlesex Beach Association
P.O. Box 173
Bethany Beach, DE 19930

Dear Mr. Wiecking:

We have completed our review of pedestrian operation conditions on DE Route 1 (Coastal Highway) within the Middlesex Beach community. This letter serves as a response to your request and a summary of our findings and recommendations.

As you stated in your email dated March 23, 2006, pedestrian crossing operations in this area have been studied in the past. Previously, a traffic signal was requested at the intersection of DE Route 1 and Bridge Road. The study that was completed found that a traffic signal was not warranted at this location. Your email also stated that you would like to investigate other improvement options such as in-roadway warning lights. In-roadway warning lights are supplemental warning devices that can be placed at a marked crosswalk location to provide additional warning to approaching motorists that a pedestrian is crossing the roadway. The lights are activated either by a push button device or motion-sensing device placed prior to the crossing location. In certain locations, the in-roadway warning lights have been found to reduce the number of collisions between vehicles and pedestrians. However, the devices are not widely used in Delaware. The Department of Transportation has developed a test location for the in-roadway warning lights at a crosswalk on Shipley Road in northern New Castle County. The Department has not had a lot of success with these devices and they have not been found to provide any more warning than the typical pedestrian crossing warning signs that are normally installed at a pedestrian crosswalk. With that being said, the Department cannot grant your request for the installation of in-roadway warning lights at the intersection of DE Route 1 and Bridge Road.

Based on your request to reevaluate the pedestrian crossing operations within Middlesex Beach, we completed a field review of the area on April 19, 2006 during which time we took an inventory of all traffic control devices within the Middlesex Beach area on DE Route 1 between Short Road and Evergreen Road. The results of our field review revealed one signing improvement that can be completed on northbound DE Route 1 as vehicles enter the Middlesex Beach community. At this location (just north of



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Evergreen Road), the Department's signing crews will be installing a pedestrian warning sign and a supplemental plaque with the legend "NEXT 1 MILE". This improvement will mirror signing improvements that were made last summer in this area for the southbound direction along DE Route 1.

While we do understand your position on crossing issues within Middlesex Beach, there is a traffic signal at Evergreen Road where pedestrians can cross with a pedestrian control signal. Thank you for your interest in traffic safety on Delaware's roadways. If you have any questions regarding any aspect of this study, please feel free to contact Adam Weiser or myself at (302) 659-2031 or (302) 659-2005, respectively.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Meyer, P.E.,
Traffic Studies Engineer

TEM/asw

Cc: The Honorable Gerald Hocker, House of Representatives
Mr. Donald D. Weber, P.E., Chief Traffic Engineer
Mr. Darrel Cole, Director, Public Relations
Ms. Tina Shockley, Community Relations Officer
Mr. Adam Weiser, E.I.T., Transportation Engineer, RK&K