

MIDDLESEX BEACH ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 173
Bethany Beach, DE 19930

July 31, 1987

The Honorable Kermit H. Justice
Secretary of the Department of Transportation
State of Delaware
P.O. Box 778
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Secretary Justice:

In a letter to you, dated July 1, 1987, Mr. Phillips, Town Manager of Bethany Beach, communicated to you the towns concern over public safety in general and the speed limit on Route 1, in particular. I can assure you that Middlesex Beach is equally concerned. It is becoming extremely dangerous for a pedestrian to cross Route 1 in the summer months.

As you may be aware, Middlesex Beach is a largely residential community which lies both to the east and west of Route 1, just South of Bethany Beach-Sea Colony and North of South Bethany.

Of the 245 properties that comprise Middlesex Beach, 165 are situated to the west of Route 1. Consequently, if those residents wish to go to the beach, they must cross Route 1.

Your department has been kind enough to place striped cross walks at our Bayberry, Errett, Bridge, Addy and Evergreen Road crossings, but this no longer adequately addresses the problem. Since my wife and I have owned our property in Middlesex, we have witnessed an enormous increase in the traffic volumes on Route 1.

Your own department's records on traffic volumes between the northern town limits of South Bethany and the intersection of Routes 1 and 26, best illustrates this point and helps to explain our concern.

<u>Month-1986</u>	<u>Avge. Daily Traffic</u>	<u>Month-1986</u>	<u>Avge. Daily Traffic</u>
March	12377	July	17033
April	14362	August	18365
May	20976	September	9574
June	29787	October	12930

The highest holiday daily traffic volume for 1986 was reported to be 35474 and the highest Saturday count 31288.

Further, it is my understanding that, on the average, the 1986 traffic volumes are some 20% greater than those for 1985. It would not at all surprise me if your records for 1987 reflect volumes 20-30% above last years levels.

It is for these reasons that I am writing to you and indicating our concern for the safety of all pedestrians. I strongly support reducing the speed limit in-season to 30 m.p.h., and out-of-season to 35 m.p.h. Also, I respectfully request that you give consideration to installing a traffic and pedestrian signal at the intersection of Bridge Road and Route 1.

Your consideration will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bruce Schoonover
President

cc. Mr. Raymond Pusey, Chief Traffic Engineer, DelDot
Mr. Dean S. Phillips, Town Manager, Bethany Beach