



**Ben Cahoon**  
Mayor

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**M. Renée Cahoon**  
Commissioner

**J. Webb Fuller**  
Commissioner

**Mike Siers**  
Commissioner

July 3, 2019

Jerry Jennings, Division Engineer  
Highway Division 1  
113 Airport Drive, Suite 100  
Edenton, NC 27932

Dear Mr. Jennings:

We are writing to express our ongoing concern about the safety of the pedestrian crosswalk that has been installed to accommodate pedestrian crossings of US 64/264 at the Little Bridge. The current treatment, which includes motion actuated flashing warning lights on the perimeter of pedestrian crossing signs, as well as a marked crosswalk and pedestrian refuge island in the center turn-lane, remains the source of numerous crashes and complaints. Often, these lights flash continuously or are activated when no pedestrians are present, causing drivers to ignore the lights. The lights are difficult to see from a safe stopping distance (primarily due to high travel speeds). As a result, drivers do not have sufficient time to stop when a pedestrian enters the crosswalk. Pedestrians tend to have a false sense of security due to the presence of the crosswalk and may enter the crosswalk when vehicles may not be able to stop in time. Additionally, we have observed that vehicles may stop in one lane for a pedestrian and the pedestrian will attempt to traverse the crosswalk only to have the vehicle traveling in the other lane continue, resulting in a crash. We are seeing high numbers of crashes at this location, particularly rear end collisions. These numerous sources of confusion are demonstrated by the Town's crash data. While the improvements have been installed to address safety concerns, it appears that the current treatment is contrary to MUTCD guidance regarding mid-block, unsignalized pedestrian crossings, which would typically be limited to lower speed/volume roadways.

Our Board would like to request that NCDOT consider a full regulatory traffic signal at this location or other similar measure such as a Hybrid Pedestrian Beacon which would require vehicles to stop when activated by a pedestrian. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss options with your staff and explore how we can improve this situation for both drivers and pedestrians.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Ben Cahoon  
Mayor

CC: Allen Moran, NCDOT