

**From:** [Rick Lawrenson](#)  
**To:** [All Mayor and Commissioners](#)  
**Subject:** Traffic light needed at Soundside Road  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 11:09:11 AM

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Mayor and Commissioners,

While you're appealing to DOT about the dangerous crosswalk situation at the little bridge (and, indeed, it is) please also consider petitioning DOT to put up a traffic light at Soundside Road. I'll suggest several reasons why:

1. The residents of Soundside Road, while able to exit on to 158 at Deering Street, have no safe pedestrian or bicycle access to the beach and the bike/walking path on the beach road via Deering St. A light and crossing at Soundside Road would open it up to the many pedestrians who walk and jog Soundside Road as well as those who bicycle.
2. It is a busy intersection, and only getting busier. The Jockey's Ridge parking lot at the sound is consistently filled during the summer, and most get there via Soundside Road at 158. Nags Head Church on a typical Sunday sees between 200-300 vehicles in their parking lot. Probably 99% of those vehicles leave the church and turn on to 158 and the majority of those are headed north. (We encourage the use of Deering Street). A lot of traffic also turns east at this intersection, either to the restaurants nearby or to get to the beach road, and there is no turn lane in either direction.
3. While there is a pedestrian crosswalk a quarter mile north at Kitty Hawk Kites, it only leads to two places: Jockey's Ridge and Kitty Hawk Kites. And more importantly, for pedestrians from Soundside Road to get there they must walk on the shoulder of 158, which is incredibly unsafe.

I'm sure if asked, there would be considerable support for a light at Soundside Road from the residents, the church and the commercial neighbors. As with the little bridge, we would rather be proactive than to wait until there is a fatality at this intersection.

Thanks.

**Rick Lawrenson**  
Lead Pastor  
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