

MEMORANDUM

TO: Roger L. Stancil, Town Manager

FROM: Lance Norris, Public Works Director
Kumar Neppalli, Engineering Services Manager

SUBJECT: Response to a Petition Requesting Pedestrian Safety Improvements
at the Intersection of Estes Drive and Caswell Road

DATE: February 8, 2010

PURPOSE

This report is in response to a petition from a citizen concerning pedestrian safety improvements at the intersection of Estes Drive and Caswell Road. Please see the area map provided in Attachment 1.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

At its November 23, 2009 meeting, the Town Council received and referred a petition (Attachment 2) from a resident expressing concern with the pedestrian safety at the intersection of Estes Drive and Caswell Road. The petitioner expressed concerns about pedestrian safety at this intersection due to the grade and geometric conditions of Estes Drive.

The petitioner requested that the Town install:

- High visibility crosswalks
- Upgraded street lighting
- Other appropriate measures to improve the safety of pedestrians at this intersection.

Estes Drive and Caswell Road intersection is controlled by a traffic signal with pedestrian signals and crosswalks. It is difficult for westbound motorists to see pedestrians crossing Estes Drive at Caswell Road due to the grade and curvy nature of the roadway. The traffic signal is owned by the State and the Town provides the maintenance and operations. Town and NCDOT staff reviewed the field conditions at the intersection and implemented the following measures:

- Installed a “signal ahead” sign on Estes Drive westbound approach prior to Caswell Road.
- Relocated the pedestrian signal push button on southeast corner so it now wheelchair accessible.

The following measures are expected to be implemented within the next two to three months:

- Install a new 250 watt HPS street light on existing pole at the southwest corner of the intersection.
- Install high visibility crosswalks at the intersection.

We make a note that as part of the traffic signal system upgrade project, the pedestrian heads at this location will be changed to countdown heads.

CONCLUSION

We think that upgrading street lighting at the intersection, installation of high visibility crosswalks, relocation of the pedestrian push button, installation of a signal ahead sign and future signal system project improvements at this location could improve pedestrian safety at and in the vicinity of this intersection.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Area Map (p. 3).
2. Petition (p. 4).