



North Topsail Beach Public Works Department

3315 Gray Street

North Topsail Beach, NC 28460

STAFF REPORT

Background

As directed at the December 6th, 2023 Board of Alderman meeting, Public Works Staff together with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) District 3 Traffic Division began the effort of assessing the current Pedestrian Safety in North Topsail Beach. As part of this effort, NCDOT commenced by collecting appropriate data (vehicle volume, speed, etc.) to both use for their analysis and to update their data base. As the governing authority for Island Drive and New River Inlet Road, NCDOT have the jurisdiction to implement and install any/all traffic control measures (signing, striping, signals and lighting). Staffs of Onslow County and the Town have acted as advisory partners for issues such as safety. This latest effort follows that same protocol.

The assessment efforts for the existing pedestrian locations to be studied to determine if *enhanced* traffic control devices (i.e., Lighted Signs, Lighted Crosswalks, etc.) are recommended and meet NCDOT criteria. In conducting this analysis, Town Staff hope that a ranking of the current locations is made by NCDOT Traffic Division. The crosswalk locations from North to South are:

- 790 New River Inlet Road – St. REGIS/VILLA CAPRIANI
- 465 New River Inlet Road - R. Peters Park/BEACH ACCESS #4
- 272 New River Inlet Road – Jefferies Bay – BEACH ACCESS #33
- 4021 Island Drive – Rogers Bay BEACH ACCESS #31
- 3632 Island Drive – Onslow County BEACH ACCESS #2.

In addition to that effort, NCDOT will determine whether the two-(2) new locations requested by the Board at the December 6, 2023 meeting satisfy the criteria and warrant installation. Those locations are:

- **790 New River Inlet Road (Town-originated request)**
- **2950 Island Drive - Beach Access #2 (Onslow County-originated request).**

Since that last Board meeting, Town Staff have received another request from a current Seasonal Vendor for enhanced Pedestrian Crossing devices at the **4021 Island Drive - Beach Access #31** Pedestrian Crossing. (Beach Access #31 is maintained by Onslow County and serves the location of Beach Bums Restaurant.)



Analysis

Presently the Town Staff have received from NCDOT Traffic Division, copies of the communication documents that have led to each of the current locations. However to date, no copies of the technical data has been forwarded to Town Staff. A follow-up request has been made to obtain this information, for documentation purposes to have this information part of Town files and records. It is Town Public Works Staff experience the same data and criteria used in the past will be used once again to analyze the new location requests.

Once NCDOT have completed their reassessment and determined what their recommendations will be for the five- (5) existing locations and the two-(2) new locations, Town Staff will meet to discuss the available options. The result of the discussions will be what viable options are available and present them to the Board.

The following list re-caps what actions have been taken thus far:

- ✓ Formal request made to NCDOT by Town Administration for both additional Pedestrian Crossings and enhanced Pedestrian Crossings for existing locations.
- ✓ NCDOT placed traffic data collecting devices along Island Drive and New River Inlet Road.
- ✓ NCDOT is currently in the process of analyzing recent collected traffic data.
- ✓ Town Staff remains in regular communication with NCDOT to monitor progress.
~ A request to NCDOT was made on the status of the traffic data recently collected.

This list is comprised of potential “next steps” and are offered as guide posts to help assess where this effort is at in this process.

- A. NCDOT to determine -
 1. If any new Crosswalk(s) are warranted and therefore recommended for installation.
 2. Which of the present crosswalks, meet the criteria for the installation of ‘Enhanced’ traffic control devices.
- B. Dependent upon the outcome(s) of item A1 and/or A2, seek available grant funding that could fund any portion of enhanced traffic control devices Town Administration

RECOMMENDATION

Provide Town Staff any additional direction to the current efforts being conducted by NCDOT Traffic Division. Receive and file this report and await further updates as a result of NCDOT and Town Staff efforts.

Attachments

Sample of Lighted Pedestrian Devices