

Brucker, Mary

From: Grueneich, Jim
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 12:59 PM
To: Brucker, Mary
Subject: Fw: KEEP Oakes Stoplight

From: Dinger, Danielle <danielle.dinger@ndsu.edu>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 5:54 PM
To: Grueneich, Jim <jgrueneich@ndlegis.gov>
Subject: KEEP Oakes Stoplight

Good morning,

I am writing in reference to your upcoming meeting with the ND Legislature next Thursday.

I would like to HIGHLY recommend that we keep the one and only stoplight in Dickey County. The reasons for keeping the stoplight cannot be expressed loudly enough when we talk about the safety of our community especially youth. I am an Oakes resident and live with my 3 boys and husband near the Oakes Good Samaritan Center. My husband and I are both working adults which requires our young boys (9, 11, & 13) to stay home by themselves during the summer days. These boys are active in sports including baseball. The baseball practice is held at the Westside Baseball Complex 1+miles west of our house. The boys travel by bike together from one side of town to the other. If you drove through our town either before or after these baseball/softball practices you would see a mass exodus of boys and girls on bikes, on foot or on scooters. These youth all have working parents who cannot attend a daily practice in order to get them there safely. Most youth are encouraged to utilize that one stoplight to get them safely across Highway 1. As well, youth who live west of Highway 1 travel often either to the school or to the pool which is east of the highway. If you are looking for a child in Oakes during a hot summer day, you will most likely find them at the pool. What an awesome benefit that is for parents to have trained lifeguards and an activity (rather than videogames and devices) to offer our children during our working days! Without a safe opportunity for these kids to cross, what will become of the above opportunities?

Having stayed home with my boys until they were old enough, I have been the mom on the bike getting them there and back or otherwise moving through town needing to cross the highway. I have personally witnessed youth waiting at the light for their turn to cross. I have also personally witnessed and been a victim of motorists ignoring the under-utilized "Crosswalks" across HWY 1, the alternatives to the stoplight. Two crosswalks are along on HWY 1; one at the intersection of the school and the ambulance garage and one further north at the intersection of HWY 1 and FCCU, the credit union bank. As a young gal in SD, my parents always directed me to use the crosswalks as they are the safe places for kids to cross. I am not certain ND has different rules or regulations than SD but the idea that if a motorists sees a pedestrian in the crosswalk, that he must then stop and wait for them to cross, IS NOT FOLLOWED IN OAKES. I have been using the crosswalk while pushing a stroller with a small boy on his bike behind me when motorists buzz by us with annoyance having to swerve out of the way. I have stopped semi's with the wave of my arms as I wasn't sure they saw us using the crosswalk, they did not slow down enough to convince me they did. In fact, I called a semi operator's business to let them know just how their driver behaved with 3 young children in a crosswalk. I have witnessed youth trying to cross at the intersection/crosswalk by the school while vehicle after vehicle cruised through the crosswalk ignoring the young child trying to cross, trying to safely get to school. In fact, one such situation another frustrated driver got out of his vehicle, parking in the traffic lane and made the oncoming traffic stop in order to allow youth to cross. Is this not a law or does it fall under more of a courtesy?