



Pedestrian Safety Flashing Beacons Project

To: Davidson Board of Commissioners
From: Doug Wright, Public Works Director
Date: July 10, 2018
Re: Pedestrian Safety Flashing Beacons Project

1. OVERVIEW

Public Works has evaluated additional pedestrian crossings in town to receive similar flashing beacons that the town has installed in other locations. These flashing beacons are activated by pedestrians that want to enter the crosswalk and it provides the yellow flashing signals for vehicles to yield to the pedestrians.

The crossings identified are Beaty/Magnolia, Concord/Baker, Main/Eugenia, and Main/Glasgow. The town has worked with NC DOT and design engineers to evaluate these options for feasibility. The project has been delayed due to NC DOT approval of the equipment used and access to power sources. Those issues have been resolved. \$75,000 has been set aside by the town for this project. Bids have been received with the low bid coming in at \$113,420. Davidson College has agreed to fund the amount above what the town had set aside (\$38,420) in order to complete all four crossings.

We have had citizen interest in seeing these crossings improved. Staff feels this is an important project to implement.

2. RELATED TOWN GOALS

Core values:

Davidson's historic mix of people in all income levels and ages is fundamental to our community, so town government will encourage opportunities, services, and infrastructure that allow people of all means to live and work here.

Citizens need to move easily throughout the town and region, so government will provide a variety of options, such as sidewalks, bike paths, greenways, connected streets, and transit.

As home to Davidson College, the town will engage the college's faculty, staff and students in constructive communication and collaboration.

Strategic Plan:

Goal 7 Mobility/Transportation - The Town of Davidson will enable citizens to move freely throughout town via transit, car, bicycle, and on foot.

Goal 9 Partnerships – The Town of Davidson will build on existing relationships to strengthen partnerships with strategic organizations and institutions. Tactical Priority 1: Davidson College.

Constituent served:

All citizens.
Visitors passing through town.
Downtown merchants.

3. OPTIONS/PROS & CONS

There are 3 options:

Option 1:

Do nothing.

Option 2:

Approve the proposed project and appropriate the funds from fund balance of \$113,420.

Option 3:

Consider selecting some but not all of the locations and appropriate any fund balance needed, if applicable.

Here are the pros and cons of option 2:

Pros:

Would improve the pedestrian crossings in these four locations for pedestrian safety as well as alerting motorists.

Addresses citizen interest in improving these pedestrian crossings.

Partnership opportunity with Davidson College.

Cons:

The costs are higher than planned for the project.

4. FYI or RECOMMENDED ACTION

Consider selecting one of the 3 options listed above. Option 2 is the recommended action. For option 2, the action required would be to approve the project as proposed and appropriate a total of \$113,420 - \$75,000 from fund balance and \$38,420 as revenue from the College.

5. NEXT STEPS

Next steps for options 2 or 3 would involve staff executing the contract and begin the implementation.