

May 26, 2017

Dear Denton Traffic Safety Commission,

We live in the neighborhood of Forrestridge and all have children who will be starting middle school at McMath next year. While we would very much like for our children to be able to walk or ride their bicycles safely to their neighborhood school, we are concerned about their having to cross Hobson Road at the entrance to South Lakes Park (at the corner of Santa Monica.) There is currently a painted crosswalk there, but from years of experience we know how very rarely cars driving down Hobson actually stop and yield the right of way to pedestrians as they're supposed to do. We feel it would be so much safer if there were a stoplight installed at that intersection, ideally one that would allow pedestrians to push a button and have the light turn to red so that cars will know that they definitely have to stop. (The light that's on Teasley to allow pedestrians to enter/exit South Lakes Park from the east side only flashes when the button is pushed, and we've witnessed cars that don't bother to stop for the flashing lights, either.) This would benefit all the people in our neighborhood who want to walk to Eureka or South Lakes, and shouldn't technically cause any additional traffic congestion, since technically cars are already supposed to stop whenever someone wants to cross the street there anyway (though, again, they rarely do!)

We very much appreciate your consideration of this request, and would be happy to speak more about it in person if that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Nora Gilbert (nora.gilbert@unt.edu; please feel free to contact me with any questions)

Josh Gilbert
(33 Highview Circle)

Anne Shepler
Olav Richter
(25 Oak Forrest Circle)

Anna Sidorova
Nick Evangelopoulos
(3812 Montecito Drive)

Sunday, June 4, 2017

Dear Denton Traffic Safety Commission,

Kids can't reach South Lakes Park and McMath Middle School on their own because traffic doesn't stop for zebra crossings. As a result, the largest park in South Denton and its bordering middle school have become an inaccessible island to kids. Traffic is backed up around McMath because parents are driving to school, often less than a mile, rather than let their kids face crosswalks alone on foot or bikes.

Kids could reach South Lakes Park and McMath directly from neighboring Forrestridge and Montecito neighborhoods and even neighborhoods south of Ryan Road if a change were made on Hopson at the entrance to SouthLakes Park. A traffic light that turns red when kids push a button would give kids independent access.

Flashing cross walk lights were installed on Teasley across from South Lakes park, but many parents report that they are still driving their kids to McMath School from Southridge neighborhoods because drivers are ignoring the lights --- parents still don't feel it is safe for kids to cross the street.

Below is a list of people living in the area who have expressed concern and agreed to have their names added to a letter asking the city for help.

Sincerely,

Anne Shepler and Olav Richter
with kids Torben and Phoebe
25 Oak Forrest Cir
Denton, TX 76210
940-484-4545

Patrick and Brandi Matous from Forrestridge
Carolyn and Sennett Kirk from Montecito
Debbie Stegman from Southridge
Brigette Woods from Bent Oaks
Eliz May from Southridge
Justin Nall from Southridge
Wendy McLaughlin from Forrestridge
Emily Bennett from Southridge
Tish Becker from Southridge
Amy Miller from Southridge
Dustin and Tera Lyon from Forrestridge
Amy Lenamon from Southridge
Debra and John Pope from Southridge
Shanon and Jeff Stanski from Southridge