



RESOLUTION 19-120

Resolution Concerning the Department of Transportation's Denial of an All-Pedestrian Phase for Traffic Lights on Nassau Street

Whereas, the State of New Jersey ranks 14th in the nation in pedestrian fatalities and is designated a “focus <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/ped_focus/>” state by the Federal Highway Administration <<http://www.fhwa.gov/>> (FHWA). Between 2009 and 2012, 565 pedestrians were killed and more than 17,000 injured on our roadways, which translates to one death every 2.5 days and 11 injuries daily. Last year, 568 people died in motor vehicle crashes in New Jersey, of which 25 percent were pedestrians; and

Whereas, the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) has jurisdiction over Nassau Street (New Jersey 27) in the municipality of Princeton, and classifies it as an Urban Principal Arterial on the National Highway System; and

Whereas, Nassau Street is within the New Jersey King's Highway Historic District and Princeton's Central Historic District, and is the main street within Princeton's Central Business District and functions as the northern boundary of Princeton University's campus; and

Whereas, providing a safe environment for the nearly two (2) million annual visitors to Princeton's downtown business district is necessary to maintain its economic vitality, a goal of the Municipality of Princeton and an assumed goal of the State of New Jersey; and

Whereas, thirteen pedestrians have been struck at these intersections, including one pedestrian fatality, between 2012-2018; and

Whereas, in response to the October 2018 municipal request for pedestrian-only phases at the NJDOT traffic signals on Nassau Street at University Place, Witherspoon Street and Washington Road, NJDOT denied the request with the rationale that a pedestrian-only phase would increase queue lengths at the intersections (Syed Kazmi, Supervising Engineer, Bureau of Traffic Engineering, 2/21/2019); and

Whereas, prioritizing traffic movement over pedestrian safety is in violation of the State of New Jersey's Complete Streets Policy <<https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/eng/completestreets/policy.shtm>>, which requires safe accommodations for all users on State roadways, not just vehicles; and

Whereas, NJDOT's [Smart Transportation Guidebook](https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/community/mobility/pdf/smarttransportationguidebook2008.pdf) <<https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/community/mobility/pdf/smarttransportationguidebook2008.pdf>> states that “the desire to go ‘through’ a place must be balanced with the desire to go ‘to’ a place (2008, Introduction, page 1); and

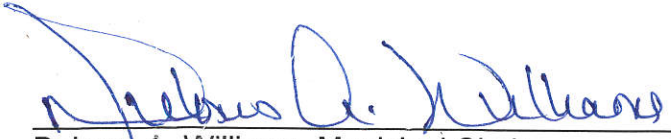
Whereas, NJDOT asserts that its Complete Streets Policy improves safety for pedestrians, children, older citizens, non-drivers and the mobility challenged and that it reduces traffic congestion ([Department of Transportation Policy, Complete Streets <https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/eng/completestreets/pdf/completestreetspolicy.pdf>](https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/eng/completestreets/pdf/completestreetspolicy.pdf), 12/93/2009 page 1); and

Whereas, NJDOT has adopted the national vision for highway safety - Toward Zero Deaths: A National Strategy on Highway Safety (Toward Zero Deaths), and has established a crash reduction goal to reduce serious injuries and fatalities by 2.5 percent annually to reach zero deaths by 2030; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Mayor and Council of the Municipality of Princeton call on NJDOT to reconsider our request for an all-pedestrian phase for the traffic signals on Nassau Street at University Place, Witherspoon Street and Washington Road and evaluate our proposal based on the impact to all users of the street, including pedestrians; and Be It Further Resolved that the Mayor and Council hereby request that the Nassau Street (NJ 27) corridor from milepost 0.00 to 0.40 be studied by the Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs to determine if substantive safety improvements, including all-pedestrian cross traffic signal phasing, are required to be in compliance with NJDOT's Complete Streets and Towards Zero Deaths policies.

Councilperson	Absent	Present	1 st	2 nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Disqualified
Mr. Cohen		X			X			
Ms. Crumiller		X		X	X			
Ms. Fraga		X			X			
Ms. Niedergang		X	X		X			
Mr. Quinn		X			X			
Mr. Williamson		X			X			
Mayor Lempert		X						

I, Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk of Princeton, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of Princeton at a meeting held April 8th, 2019.


 Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk