

## Bobbie Walthall

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**From:** Lauren Reinhold [lauren@sunflower.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2008 8:54 AM  
**To:** mdever@sunflower.com; robchestnut@sunflower.com; mikeamyx515@hotmail.com; boog@lawrence.ixks.com; suehack@sunflower.com  
**Cc:** Bobbie Walthall  
**Subject:** Please approve our request for a pedestrian light on Peterson Road

Mayor, Vice-Mayor and the City Commissioners-

I am writing to ask for your support on approving a pedestrian crossing light on Peterson Road near Arrowhead Drive, on the agenda for 11/18/08. The attached petition I first drafted over a year ago, now signed by 100 neighbors (found at [http://www.ci.lawrence.ks.us/advisory\\_boards/tsc/agendas/2008/11/03](http://www.ci.lawrence.ks.us/advisory_boards/tsc/agendas/2008/11/03)), states the reasons for our concern with the safety of traffic on Peterson. I wish to speak from the heart and tell you that I am truly fearful for all pedestrians crossing this road, particularly children and families. I first drafted this petition (the text of which is provided below) in fall 2007 after trying to cross Peterson with my family on an outing to Deerfield Park and having a frightening "near miss" with traffic at that intersection. Over time, I got more neighbors involved. This is a simple question of having pedestrian-friendly use of our neighborhoods. As it stands, many families I have talked to about this issue are leery of crossing Peterson. This means more people choose to drive to the park or school (or not go to the park at all). Such stagnation of pedestrian use is bad for our city. We should be able to cross Peterson on foot without undue anxiety.

I am aware that you approved a similar measure on 9<sup>th</sup> Street, near Sunset. I know you take all spending seriously and I wish to emphasize that the light on Peterson is needed just as sorely. We have similar concerns- residents in both neighborhoods have difficulty crossing a very busy street to get to the school/park and face dodging heavy, speedy, unaware traffic coming over a hill. Our neighborhood north of Peterson is much larger than the one north of 9<sup>th</sup>.

I plan to also telephone each of you. I thank you for your time and service.

Lauren Reinhold

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### Petition for Better Traffic Safety at the Intersection of Peterson Road and Arrowhead Drive

The Undersigned residents of the Deerfield area of Lawrence, Kansas support better traffic control on Peterson Road for the following reasons:

- Peterson Road is a very busy street with a speed limit of 40 miles per hour (though many drivers exceed the speed limit). There are no traffic lights or stop signs between Iowa and Kasold, a stretch of more than one mile through a residential neighborhood.
- The area has seen a significant increase in traffic due to residential development north of Peterson Road and south of I-70 between Monterey Way and Kasold.
- Many pedestrians, as well as children on bikes or scooters, cross Peterson Road at Arrowhead Drive to travel to and from Deerfield Park and Deerfield School. During good weather, numerous families travel this route on any given day. Sometimes, older children cross alone.
- There is a hill approximately 100 feet to the East of the intersection that makes it hard to detect the high-speed vehicular traffic approaching from that direction.
- It is not uncommon to have to race across the street to beat traffic that is traveling faster than allowed or expected. This is exacerbated by the fact that it is three lanes wide.
- During peak traffic times, it can be very difficult, nearly impossible, to cross Peterson Road at all.
- A crossing guard is present when school begins and is let out, but this is a very short frame of time that the intersection sees pedestrian traffic. PLEASE NOTE: WE DO NOT SUPPORT LOSING OUR CROSSING GUARD, AS ADULT JUDGMENT IS STILL NEEDED AT THE SCHOOL CROSSING, DESPITE ANY PEDESTRIAN CONTROLLED TRAFFIC LIGHT.

11/13/2008

- Many vehicles have been observed to violate traffic rules or ignore pedestrians at the intersection. During crossing hours, a police officer sometimes situated nearby and hands out many tickets to drivers who ignore the reduced speed limit. During all times, pedestrians must cross the street very defensively and this is difficult for families with children (often including, bikes, scooters and strollers).

We therefore ask for a pedestrian-controlled red light at the intersection of Peterson Road and Arrowhead Drive. It is our belief that this is necessary to allow the enjoyment of our residential neighborhood and to prevent an unnecessary accident involving a pedestrian.