March 17, 2010

Pastor & Mrs. Joseph Krafthefer

822 Chapel Cr. Rd.

Kingston, Ohio 45644

RE: SR 159 & Aldi’s / Tractor Supply / Tire Discounters

SR 159 & Delano Rd.

Dear Pastor & Mrs. Krafthefer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the above referenced intersections. We appreciate your input on these important transportation issues regarding traffic signals. We have received several requests regarding these two intersections.

The Ohio Department of Transportation receives many requests in favor of and in opposition to signals. In order to maintain consistency and ensure that a signal is the appropriate form of traffic control, the Federal Highway Administration publishes a section on traffic signals in their Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Ohio must comply with these regulations; therefore they are adopted in the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (OMUTCD).

These regulations require that in order to consider a traffic signal, a signal warrant must be met. There are 8 different signal warrants in the OMUTCD. The applicable signal warrants are based on the traffic volumes on both the main street (SR 159) and on the side street. The volumes must meet the minimum threshold values in order to meet the signal warrant.

The OMUTCD also points out that there are pros and cons to operating a stop and go traffic signal at an intersection. Engineering judgment plays an important role in determining when a traffic signal is the best form of traffic control for an intersection. *Section 4B.03 Advantages and Disadvantages of Traffic Control Signals* of the OMUTCD is enclosed to explain some of the considerations given when determining if a signal is the appropriate form of traffic control.

**SR 159 & Aldi’s/ Tire Discounters / Tractor Supply**

The traffic signal at SR 159 & Aldi’s/ Tire Discounters / Tractor Supply was installed based on projected traffic volumes generated by the development on the East side of SR 159. However, the remaining land has not been developed as expected and the traffic volumes being generated by the Aldi’s store are lower than projected. **The amount of traffic currently on the side streets at this intersection is not high enough to meet any of the required signal warrants.**

*Section 4C.01 Studies and Factors for Justifying Traffic Control Signals* of The Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (OMUTCD) states the following:

*At a location that is under development or construction and where it is not possible to obtain a traffic count that would represent future traffic conditions, hourly volumes should be estimated as part of an engineering study for comparison with traffic signal warrants. Except for locations where the engineering study uses the satisfaction of Warrant 8 to justify a signal, a traffic control signal installed under projected conditions should have an engineering study done within 1 year of putting the signal into stop-and-go operation to determine if the signal is justified. If not justified, the signal should be taken out of stop-and-go operation or removed.*

Enclosed is a copy of the ODOT signal removal process that is being followed for the signal at the intersection at SR 159 & Aldi’s/ Tire Discounters / Tractor Supply. The 90 day flashing period has just ended, and ODOT and the City of Chillicothe will be reviewing all feedback received and any crash data from the flashing period. Your letter will be included with the feedback. If the decision is made at that point to continue with the “removal”, the signal will remain as a flasher. The equipment will not be removed. It is our intent that the signal will revert back to stop and go operation if/when the traffic volumes are high enough to meet a signal warrant.

**SR 159 & Delano Rd.**

This intersection has been studied in 2004, 2007, 2008 and again in 2009 due to requests for a signal. ODOT continues to receive requests regarding this intersection. **The intersection does not currently have enough traffic to meet a signal warrant.**  A recommendation has been added to the ODOT District 9 Priority List to install an overhead flasher and intersection lighting to this intersection. It is currently ranked priority 10 on the list. There is currently no funding committed to the project, and it may get constructed if it moves up on the priority list. This list is a document that is continually changing as crash patterns change, projects are added and projects are completed.

Please feel free to contact Patricia Wetzel at (740) 774-8983 if you have any questions or if you wish to discuss this further. Thank you again for your input.

Respectfully,

James A. Brushart

Deputy Director

Ohio Department of Transportation

District 9

Enclosure

C: T. Day, C. Ortman, D. Buskirk, G. Baird, R. Chaffin, P. Wetzel, J. Phillips