



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION

LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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CHAIR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Pedestrian hybrid beacon installation earns honor for two Michigan departments**

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) North Region and the Traverse City Transportation Service Center (TSC) will be honored during the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) annual awards celebration Wednesday at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing for installing pedestrian hybrid beacons on Grandview Parkway in Traverse City.

The commission honors organizations, programs and individuals for outstanding involvement in traffic safety. The awards ceremony is part of the 25th Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit. Three long-term awards, six Outstanding Traffic Safety Achievement awards and one student award are being presented.

The pedestrian hybrid beacons, or HAWK signals, were installed in June 2019. Since their installation, there have been no recorded bicycle or pedestrian crashes at the Grandview Parkway and Elmwood Avenue and Grandview Parkway and Hall Street intersections. There were five crashes in the two years prior to installation. The Grandview Parkway sees 30,000 vehicles per day and is four lanes wide with an intermittent median. Before the installation, there were no signalized crosswalks on Grandview Parkway.

The MDOT installed the HAWK signals at a cost of about \$100,000 after considerable input from local groups like the TSC. HAWK signals work by combining a marked crosswalk on the street with overhead flashing lights that signal to both drivers and pedestrians when to stop and when to proceed.

The GTSAC was formed in 2002 to serve as the state's forum for identifying key traffic safety challenges and developing and implementing plans to address those issues. The commission includes representatives from the MDOT and Michigan State Police and departments of: Education, Health and Human Services and State, as well as the Office of the Governor, Aging and Adult Services Agency and Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. There are also three representatives from local government appointed by the governor.

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Michael L. Prince, Chair, Office of Highway Safety Planning • Steven Kiefer, Governor's Office • Carol Reagan, Department of State • Gregg Brunner, Department of Transportation • Linda Scarpetta, Department of Health and Human Services • Kenneth Micklash, Department of Education • Inspector Scott Marier, Department of State Police • Rachel Telder, Aging and Adult Services Agency • Hank Kelley, Local Representative • Chief Ronald Wiles, Local Representative • Sheriff Michael Poulin, Local Representative

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