



**Ben Cahoon**  
Mayor

**Michael Siers**  
Mayor Pro Tem

**Andy Garman**  
Town Manager

**Town of Nags Head**  
Post Office Box 99  
Nags Head, NC 27959  
Telephone 252-441-5508  
Fax 252-441-0776  
[www.nagsheadnc.gov](http://www.nagsheadnc.gov)

**M. Renée Cahoon**  
Commissioner

**J. Webb Fuller**  
Commissioner

**Kevin Brinkley**  
Commissioner

**To:** Mayor and Board of Commissioners  
**From:** Andy Garman, Town Manager  
David Ryan, Town Engineer  
Eric Claussen, Public Works Director

**Date:** October 1, 2021

**Re:** Seachase Drive Sidewalk & Pedestrian Safety Projects

---

In 2013, the Town of Nags Head received an NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant for the purpose of developing the Town's Pedestrian Plan and subsequently hired Alta Planning + Design to complete that process. Through collaboration with local residents, town staff, and regional representatives serving as the Steering Committee, the stakeholders identified several key areas for the plan to focus including Safety, Health, Economics, Mobility, and Environmental Stewardship. As a result of community interaction between the Steering Committee and citizens via both in-person sessions and social media interactions, the Town of Nags Head Pedestrian Plan was completed in 2014.

The Pedestrian and 2017 Comprehensive Plans have been used as guiding documents to make pedestrian improvements across the community, including the multi-use path installation along the west side of Croatan Highway and sidewalk connections on various side streets. The Town uses this blueprint for decision-making processes, but as practices, needs, and alternatives evolve, staff will revisit priorities and make modifications as necessary. Additionally, small scale projects may become more attractive and be shifted up on the list when coupled with other pedestrian safety features.

At the September Board of Commissioners Meeting, Public Works was asked to assess a sidewalk extension from Croatan Highway to Baymeadow Drive on the southside of Seachase Drive, which was previously identified as a priority project. This project will require collaboration with NCDOT to meet the ADA requirements, regarding the pushbutton and curb ramp locations at the existing Seachase traffic signal as it traverses the State right-of-way. In addition, a portion of the sidewalk on the east side of the highway will need to be reconstructed and curbing added so that the pedestrian path is better delineated and protected at the intersection. The approximate cost for this project is \$35,000 (see attached cost estimate) and, if directed by the Board, can be added to the other sidewalk work that the Town has scheduled this season on Barnes and Bonnett Streets. This project would be an example of expediting a previously identified need due to citizen requests, overall cost, and the connection to other safety needs as identified below.



At the September Board Meeting, the Board asked Public Works to review the crosswalk at the intersection of S. Virginia Dare Trail and Seachase Drive, due to citizen concerns associated with the limited visibility of that crosswalk located within the curve. Public Works is committed to taking a methodical approach to these concerns, identifying the most effective improvement(s) to address the concern. Because of the recent installation of the lighted, pushbutton signs at the intersections of Bonnett Street and the Jeannette's Pier crosswalk by NCDOT, the most intuitive solution to meet driver expectations would be to install an additional lighted, pushbutton sign at this location for consistency across the community. Staff has contacted the State, who is willing to acquire and install the new pushbutton sign at this location at an estimated cost of \$10,000. While these lighted, pushbutton signs may not be the answer for additional locations, staff does feel that this sign will bring addition awareness to drivers along this segment due the safety concerns associated with the lack of visibility along the

horizontal curve.

If the Board wishes to proceed with these two items, Public Works will coordinate with the Town Engineer to proceed with adding the segments of new sidewalk and curb ramps to the existing sidewalk projects to be completed within this fiscal year, as well as coordinate with NCDOT on the acquisition and installation of the new lighted, pushbutton sign at the intersection of Seachase Drive and S. Virginia Dare Trail to address of the safety concern of citizen's crossing in the curve. Lastly, staff is waiting on additional response from NCDOT on the requested traffic study at the intersection of Croatan Highway and Gray Eagle Street, as well as the potential safety improvements at intersection of NC12 and Old Oregon Inlet Road.