



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0349  
(615) 741-2848

GERALD F. NICELY  
COMMISSIONER

PHIL BREDESEN  
GOVERNOR

**September 4, 2008**

The Honorable Joe Reagan  
Mayor, City of Brentwood  
5211 Maryland Way  
P.O. Box 788  
Brentwood, TN 37027

Dear Mayor Reagan:

Thank you for your letter of July 25, 2008 regarding the installation of traffic signals on state highways.

I have reviewed the points that you have made regarding Brentwood and its ability to determine whether or not traffic signals are warranted on state routes within the city limits. We do not doubt that cities or their hired consultants have the ability to fairly determine the outcome of signal studies as evidenced by your Traffic Signal Policy.

The department is moving toward a more permissive stance in this area and we do not feel that delegating the authority for the approval of signals to the city is necessary. Traffic engineering studies performed by municipalities and their consultants do provide valid justification for the installation of signals. In these cases, the local municipality would approve signal installation based on the engineering study and request concurrence from the department that the signal is warranted. The department would develop a memorandum of understanding regarding signal maintenance and the municipality could then move ahead with its installation.

I am optimistic that this response satisfies your need. If you have further questions regarding this issue, please contact Mr. Paul Degges, Chief Engineer, at 615-741-0791.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Nicely", is written over the "Sincerely," line.

Gerald F. Nicely  
Commissioner

GFN:PT

CC: Mr. Paul Degges, W/Attach.