

Mr. Buffington:

Many thanks for the high-profile article on last week's front page concerning the critical need for a new traffic signal on US 129 @ Old Pendergrass Rd. Many citizens of Jefferson and Jackson County are aware of this growing problem and I'm certain that everyone is very anxious to take the steps necessary to have the new signal installed as soon as possible. Following are my thoughts and recommendations:

- While the light should have been operating well in advance of merchants opening for business at the adjacent Loggins Corners, and definitely needs to be operational before the Kroger opens early next year, this is clearly not going to happen as the planning process is just now getting underway. Regrettably, what you have clearly documented as a very dangerous situation today will grow to a disastrous problem when the new Kroger opens. However, it is very likely there is anything anyone can do at this point that will result in the light going into service before the Kroger opens.
- The City of Jefferson will be negotiating with GDOT to attempt to minimize their costs. This action is needed due to the City's financial crunch, but the bottom line is that it will be challenging to quickly generate the amount of money required to move forward with the required intersection improvement and the signal installation. The bond process will likely take time. Same goes for implementing impact fees on new growth. A creative "out of the box" solution is needed. How about the City of Jefferson establishing a special tax credit program whereby anyone who donates \$1 to the Traffic Signal project would receive a \$2 tax credit spread over 5 years? (2007-2011) All could participate, but this would be an excellent opportunity for large corporate stakeholders like Kroger to demonstrate their community pride by stepping up to the plate to help make the light a reality as soon as possible. I'm not familiar with governmental processes, but I would think something like this could be set up quickly and result in getting money to the table as soon as possible.
- The City of Jefferson needs to spend some time and resources developing a full understanding of traffic patterns and volumes in the "Kroger" operational world. When Kroger opens, its ability to draw large crowds will mean that any remaining retail space in Loggins Corners will be occupied. The City needs to come up with an interim plan to manage the intersection as efficiently as possible without the traffic light. Alternate vehicle access routes to and from Loggins Corners need to be clearly identified and communicated to the public. (i.e. instead of exiting the center via Old Pendergrass and trying to turn north on US 129, it may be much safer to use the access road south of Beef O'Brady's, go down to the first turn-around and come back north) This plan may also involve having police stationed at the intersection to direct traffic during peak hours.
- As this issue continues to unfold its important that as many facts and information be made available to the public. You've done a good job of keeping this issue in front of your readers. However, in the interest of expanding the process of public awareness and education, I've started a website that includes a special page with a wide variety of information, letters, e-mail and planning documents related to the traffic signal issue at Loggins Corners. I'll make every effort to keep the website information current and relevant. My goal will be focused on helping everyone pursue a pro-active solution in a positive manner. I see no value in "pointing fingers" or "laying blame". Its time to begin focusing on identifying the best approach to solve the problem as quickly as possible via whatever means that are in the best interest of public safety. I invite everyone to frequently visit the new Loggins Corners website at: [www.LogginsCorners.com](http://www.LogginsCorners.com).

*Let's all dedicate our efforts to working together to "Get 'er Done"!*

Thanks,



Loggins Corners Web Guy  
[www.LogginsCorners.com](http://www.LogginsCorners.com)

259 Allen Bridge Rd.  
Talmo, GA 30575  
[www.Talmo-GA.com](http://www.Talmo-GA.com)

Ofc: 678-924-8172  
Cell: 404-408-8406