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Too soon for more studies of Tivoli intersection, state says

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TIVOLI — A state Department of Transportation official says recent requests for further studies of the state Route 9G and county Route 78 intersection are premature.

State Regional Traffic and Safety Engineer Michael Cotton on Wednesday said results of changes made last year are still being assessed.

“We’ve had two requests over the last several years, we’ve done an engineering study both times, and it was determined that the intersection, with the number of accidents and amount of traffic, did not meet the warrants for a traffic signal,” he said.

County Route 78 consists of Kerley Corners Road on the east side of state Route 9G and becomes Broadway on the west side leading into the village.

“The last study was completed in September 2009 and as a result of that study we increase the size of the stop sign on Kerley Corners Road and Broadway, and put ‘warning intersection’ signs up on (Route) 9G,” Cotton said. “At that time we sent a letter out to the supervisor of Germantown, who was the one who requested it. He requested a meeting and we told him once we had a chance to evaluate the results of this work that we did and then look at what was done then we would be glad to meet with him.”

Village Board members asked for the study following a Feb. 18 accident and contend the intersection has a history of serious and fatal accidents, but did not immediately have details.

“The intersection is the gateway to the village,” village Trustee Bryan Cranna said. “It is highly traveled. With warmer weather upon us, traffic into the village of Tivoli will surely increase.”

State Sen. Stephen Saland, R-Poughkeepsie, in a press release agreed that recent changes at the intersection were not enough to make drivers safe.

“Despite the traffic safety measures put in place following the previous DOT study, the intersection of county Route 78 and Route 9G continues to pose significant problems for motorists,” he said. “Given the long history of accidents at this site, we anxiously await DOT’s response to our request.”

Support for a light also came from state Assemblyman Marc Molinaro, R-Red Hook, a former Tivoli mayor, who said the accident in February was an indication that stronger steps are needed.

“Having just joined our local emergency responders at an unfortunate car crash, the time has come for a signal light to be installed,” he said.

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