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Ferris State University has been on a multi-year journey to continuously improve our pedestrian safety on campus. Many improvements have been made over the last several years including ongoing efforts for driver and pedestrian education, signage improvements at intersections, intersection re-configurations, the addition of stop signs at some intersections that previously did not require vehicles to stop, and improved lighting along roadways and at pedestrian crossings.

One of the recommendations that is shared with the university periodically is the idea of a pedestrian crossing bridge over State Street. The university has studied this alternative from several perspectives and has decided that it would not be a cost effective solution to improved pedestrian safety. Part of this analysis is the recognition that the university owns approximately 6,340 feet of lineal frontage along State Street with many crossings throughout this 1.2 mile span. It is our belief, after an extended study of this topic, that pedestrians would not walk north or south along State Street just to get to the crossing bridge only to have to go back in the opposite direction to get to where they originally wanted to cross. These issues, coupled with a nearly $1,000,000 price tag to construct such a pedestrian crossing bridge, have caused us to continue to focus on other alternatives. One such enhancement constructed in the summer of 2010 through a partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation was the addition of the pedestrian crossing light on State Street west of the Starr building.

Thank you for your interest in pedestrian safety. We greatly appreciate any efforts on the part of pedestrians and drivers of vehicles to keep our pedestrians safe.

Jerry L. Scoby
Vice President for Administration and Finance