



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

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Contact: Mike Donila Abbey Harris
306-1177 cell 215-4579 office
705-1681 cell

Mayor Jacobs: New Lights to Brighten Entrances at Gibbs Schools

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Construction crews with KUB recently installed 12 lights to the Gibbs high school, middle school and elementary school entrances along a half-mile stretch of Tazewell Pike.

The move comes after community leaders and Knox County Commissioner Richie Beeler reached out to Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, asking for help to make the area safer. The Mayor's Office then met with KUB, which agreed to install the lights.

In recent years, a number of pedestrians have been struck crossing the road at night.

“As you can imagine, the entire stretch – before the lights were installed – was very dark and created a precarious situation, both on the road and on the sidewalk,” Mayor Jacobs said. “But the public realized there was a need for improvements and our team and KUB really stepped up to make this project happen.”

Commissioner Beeler agreed.

“Often times during big events, like football games, people would have to park across the street and cross what could be an extremely dangerous area because there were no lights,” said Beeler, whose district includes the three schools. “Fixing this was a huge priority for this area.”

The county paid roughly \$12,000 to install the lights and will maintain them.

“We were happy to work with Knox County to install lighting on Tazewell Pike between Gibbs High School and Gibbs Elementary School through our outdoor lighting program, which provides a variety of energy-efficient LED lights to meet the needs of our customers,” added Gabriel Bolas, president and CEO of Knoxville Utilities Board.

Jim Snowden, senior director of the Knox County Engineering and Public Works Department, said the lights are only one component to making the area safer. He said officials also are looking into possibly building a pedestrian bridge at some point.

Check out a short video of the project [here](#).

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