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Pedestrian safeguards going up

BY BRIANNE DOPART, The Herald-Sun
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DURHAM -- The Broad Street-Perry Street intersection -- where a woman was hit by a car in August and many pedestrian-vehicle near-misses have occurred -- might see a traffic light and pedestrian-operated signal buttons by Christmas, city officials say.

Installation work began Monday.

Community concern about the intersection and crosswalk, which connects Duke's East Campus with the bustling shops and restaurants west of Broad Street, sprouted from the August accident.

Erin Kuhns, a 28-year-old Duke graduate student, was struck and injured by a Cadillac Escalade while crossing the street to the Whole Foods grocery store.

Days after city officials announced plans to request a signal at the intersection, a second woman was struck -- but not seriously injured -- while trying to cross Broad Street between Perry and West Main streets.

The light, which will allow pedestrians to push a button to activate a crossing signal, is the third adjustment in the Broad-Perry area since the accidents.

A crossing sign was posted a month after the August accident.

In late September, the state Department of Transportation approved a speed limit reduction to 25 mph from 35 mph in the block the collision took place.

City transportation manager Mark Ahrendsen said Tuesday the signal installation work could be completed by Christmas.

Broad Street is a popular north-south route for commuters heading to and from Duke, the Duke Medical Center complex and the Durham Freeway.

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