

Light to Aid Joy School Tots

A new traffic light will be installed at the Joy School crossing on College Road according to State Highway Department officials. The announcement was made at a parents' meeting held May 19 to discuss the traffic problem at the crossing.

The situation at the crossing has been so bad in the past that several local families of Indian and Eskimo children have been kept home from school during part of the winter.

The traffic and the foggy cold weather were too much for very young children to combat, Mrs. Roger Svoboda of Johnson Subdivision felt. When no special bus was run and no private transportation was available, her children stayed home.

Several families arranged car pools in the Johnson-Lemeta areas. Other mothers, like Mrs. Kenneth Moe of Aurora Subdivision, could depend on a bus to solve the problem. Some mothers walked with their young children.

The new light will help regulate traffic by having a regular red-yellow-green cycle, Highway Department officials said. The current light

blinks yellow, then turns red when a button is pressed by crossing children. The new light will also blink until a button is pressed, but will have a regular color cycle.

The button mechanism has also been a source of trouble in the past. It is being returned to the manufacturers with recommendations for change, the Highway Department said. Last winter it often became inoperative in very cold weather.

Other road signs leading to the light will be installed, the Highway Department promised.

The State Police Department representative, Capt. Emery Chapple, pointed out that an adult crossing guard would be the most effective measure for preventing accidents at the crossing. However, no agreement could be reached concerning who should provide the guard.

Other suggestions, such as an overpass, re-routing the highway or installing a regular timed traffic light, were vetoed by the Highway Department. Most of the alternatives suggested by the parents were beyond the ca-

capacity of present funds, Andrew Zahare, department spokesman, said.

One man offered to provide a sand box at the crossing if the Highway Department would keep it filled with sand. Zahare said that the Highway Department would be glad to cooperate if the box were provided. Then the school custodian or other persons could sand the crossing any time needed, without waiting for Highway Department schedules.