



Nearly two years ago, Town of Hilton Head Island, SC officials realized that ongoing efforts to upgrade existing pedestrian crossings to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act's (ADA) detectable warning surface requirements left something to be desired. The Town maintains a 50-mile public multi-use pathway system that is heavily used by the island's residents and visitors. The bright yellow flexible surfaces being applied to the asphalt pathway approaches to road crossings were considered incompatible with the Town's efforts to emphasize natural earth-tone hues in its design practices. Citizens and public officials complained about the intrusive "bath mats" that were being installed. The Town decided to investigate alternatives.

Traffic Distributor Links (representing Transpo Industries) suggested **Step-Safe®** Detectable Warning Tiles. The Town was impressed with the variety of colors available, the ease of installation, and the durability afforded. The Town's design professionals worked with a number of citizen committees to identify the chocolate brown color as preferred. In order to accommodate the ADA-required level of contrast and simplify the logistical problems associated with attempting to retrofit existing pedestrian crossings, the Town hired a contractor to replace existing asphalt on pathway approaches with Portland cement concrete pre-formed to accept the inlaid **Step-Safe®** tiles and grouting material.

The Town identified Coligny Circle, a large roundabout intersection that serves as the terminus for a number of arterial streets in the Town's most popular beach area for visitors, as a suitable pilot project. Three of the arterial streets had existing pathway crossings marked just outside the outer edge of the circle. The Town had recently designed and constructed raised median islands to serve as pedestrian refuges at the crossings, and offset the crossings by installing railings within the refuge areas in order to afford improved sight distance. The refuge islands were constructed with a light-colored oyster-shell aggregate concrete. Subsequently, existing concrete within the islands was removed and re-poured to accommodate the preferred **Step-Safe®** tiles inlaid flush into the concrete surface. The Town's contractor successfully accomplished a total of twelve 4' x 8' installations in a single day to fully treat each of the three major arterial pathway crossings in both the medians and shoulders. Further, the installations were accomplished in a manner that avoided any obvious indication that the tiles had been retrofitted into previously existing concrete. Over a year later, all of the installations continue to provide the desired service, and have yet to require any maintenance. The Town is delighted with the finished product, with the ease with which the installations were made, and with the relatively low cost of the work. It subsequently decided to identify the chocolate brown **Step-Safe®** tiles as the preferred treatment method at pathway crossings, both for new projects and for retrofitting existing crossings.

The Town of Hilton Head Island loves Transpo Industries **Step-Safe®** tiles! We are planning to construct numerous projects in upcoming months that will incorporate the product. One of these projects will widen and construct separated pathways along both sides of a portion of Matthews Drive, a heavily-traveled two-lane major collector route. The project includes the construction of a new roundabout intersection that will afford the opportunity to construct median islands similar to those employed at Coligny Circle. Another major project that the Town is excited about accomplishing in 2007 is the construction of separated multi-use pathways on both sides of Pope Avenue, a multi-lane divided arterial that currently employs on-street contiguous bike lanes. The Town will install the **Step-Safe®** at each location where the new pathways will cross side streets, and for the existing arterial crossings within the project area.

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