Lights on GSP is kicked-off

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CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE – Nearly nine years after Van Drew’s Cape May Court House intersection was the site of a fatal car accident while creating the Garden State Parkway, federal, state and local officials announced the installation of traffic lights on the GSP in Cape May County.

On the 172 miles of the GSP, the only traffic lights were at Shell Bay Avenue, Brick, Englishtown, New Egypt, Little Egg Harbor, Tuckerton and Port Monmouth. A driver struck and killed a 17-year-old in 2004, when on Oct. 4, his mother drove him to Blocklet Park to meet a movie and then to Wandy’s to get a meal. On their way home they were crossing the Garden State Parkway in Blocklet when a driver bounding north on the GSP ran the red light and broad-sided the Meyer vehicle. The driver then fled on foot, leaving their mother shattered. According to her husband, Eric Meyer, his wife has had two more accidents at the same intersection since 2004.

State Sen. Jeff Van Drew and Eric Meyer later launched a campaign to eliminate the traffic signals off the GSP, starting with a town hall, press conference, public comments with the Cape May Court House Office.

“About a decade ago I met this gentleman under the worst of circumstances,” Van Drew said. “We held a press conference called by me and his son who had lost a father (its accident on the GSP).”

Van Drew credited Meyer’s advocacy for getting more traffic lights to let people know there are traffic lights ahead. He said with Monday’s groundbreaking, “the life of Christopher Meyer will go on, because they would be able due to the elimination of the traffic lights. After numerous accidents at those parkway intersections, please see lights,” page A2.