

From: Speidel, Marn

Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 3:12 PM

To: 'batbeneathmoon@gmail.com' <batbeneathmoon@gmail.com>

Cc: Breault, William <W.Breault@dover.nh.gov>; Joyal, Michael <M.Joyal@dover.nh.gov>

Subject: FW: Crosswalks for sixth street

Ms. Kazan,

Your message was shared with me by the Chief of Police. We are very glad that your son was not seriously injured. I will share your concern about the lack of a marked crosswalk in this area of Sixth Street with the City's Transportation Advisory Commission at its next regular meeting.

While I appreciate your advocacy for improving pedestrian safety, I hope that you are also having a conversation with your child about the importance of being aware before crossing the street. He told the responding police officer that he ran across without looking. He is not actually obligated to cross Sixth Street to get to his bus stop. He has the option to wait in the safety of the sidewalk on the Maple Street corner until the school bus actually arrives, which would then give him a fully protected opportunity to cross with the activated lights of the bus.

In fact, a marked crosswalk in this area of Sixth Street would not necessarily have made the situation safer. We do not want to create a condition where pedestrians (especially younger children) feel safer in a crosswalk because they expect a driver to stop. While it may be more likely that the finger of blame could point at the driver, that doesn't necessarily give the pedestrian greater protection from injury. This is actually one of the key principles of the City's existing Crosswalk Policy and Standards document, which the Transportation Advisory Commission and City staff use to evaluate any request for new crosswalks. Of the 3 types of crosswalks in the City's inventory (signalized, intersection related, and uncontrolled), a crosswalk on Sixth Street in this area would be classified as uncontrolled and is the most dangerous. In situations where a pedestrian can simply wait for a safe gap in traffic to cross the street, the onus remains on the pedestrian and this is actually a safer situation than having a pedestrian fail to pay attention because they expect a driver to see them.

Thank you very much for sharing your concern. I will keep you apprised if the TAC should decide to endorse adding a new crosswalk here.

Respectfully,
Marn Speidel

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From: Roboairigato <batbeneathmoon@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 12:51:26 PM
To: m.joyal@doover.nh.gov <m.joyal@doover.nh.gov>
Subject: Crosswalks for sixth street

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Hello,

I'm contacting you today regarding the dangers of Sixth Street here in Dover. This morning my ten year old son was hit by a car while crossing sixth street to get to his bus stop. Thankfully the driver did see him in the last second and slowed down which saved my sons life. Physically my son seems to be okay though we are keeping a close watch on him but mentally this will inevitably affect him for his whole life possibly. Now the reason why I'm telling you this is because I do believe that there 100% needs to be many more LIT crosswalks installed on sixth street ASAP, and I will not stop until it happens. I should not have to worry about my sons safety while walking to his bus stop when I'm at work. I do believe that with properly lit crosswalks the children and families in this area will feel a lot safer. Thank you for your time.
Gayla Kazan