

Emails from UALR Faculty and Staff Regarding Pedestrian Safety at the Intersection of University Avenue and Campus Drive (chronological order):

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Clea Elaine Hupp** <cehupp@ualr.edu>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 11:48 AM
Subject: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

I looked and could not find an email for Public Safety, so I am posting my comments here in hope that they will get to the right person.

When a car traveling south on University Drive makes a left turn to Campus Drive, there is often a blind spot that is created by northbound traffic in the left turn lane going into the shopping center. There is a car in that lane about 70% of the time, and it makes it almost impossible to see northbound traffic in the other two lanes at a safe distance to make the left turn. The end result is that one has to peak out slowly and then speed into the left turn if oncoming traffic unexpectedly appears.

This is a problem for students who are crossing Campus Drive along University Avenue. As far as I can tell, they have a walk symbol, but traffic turning left (and trying to avoid being hit by the northbound traffic on University) might not see them until the last minute. I am afraid that this is going to end in a tragedy for one of our students.

The traffic lights could be adjusted to prevent this scenario. I know that this is probably a city issue, but I hoped that the proper university administration could make the call-- they might have more impact than a random professor.

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Clea Hupp
Associate Professor of History
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
2801 S. University Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72204

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Atherton Hiatt** <gahiatt@ualr.edu>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 12:06 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

I agree with your observations. My wife works on South Campus and I frequently deal with that issue. When she is in the car with me she watches for the students and keeps

me informed about their presence and movement. When I am going to get her at lunch or at end of day I am on my own and very much aware of the safety issues.

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From: **Kathy L Shapley** <klshapley@ualr.edu>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 12:09 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

It should be a turn on left with signal only kind of spot, too many people honk and get impatient if you don't turn even if you can't see the oncoming traffic. It's a very dangerous intersection for cars and pedestrians.

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From: **W NS** <profsuter@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 12:09 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

Bingo. For the past few years, I've avoided that white knuckle left turn 100% of time by doing a U-ey in the direction of the Mexican Consulate. Then crossing straight-on with the light. Years ago I was teaching in Ross Hall and heard the collision of two cars (non pedestrian)--a fatality at that intersection (or within a few hundred feet). I've been creeped out ever since when turning, but easily avoiding it by approaching some other way. I understand UPS doesn't make left turns whenever possible. Crazy blind interactions like that leave no doubt why.

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From: **Andrea Herrmann** <awherrmann@ualr.edu>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 12:10 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

Thank you Clea Hupp for very effectively detailing the danger of this intersection. I absolutely agree with her analysis of the danger for both pedestrians and drivers. I often feel like I am taking my life in my hands just making that turn. Before creeping out, if I see any pedestrian who looks like they will be crossing in the crosswalk, I wait before I get into the turn because stopping to let them keep on walking (which of course one must do) with a speeding oncoming car ready to crash into the side of mine would surely be an unpleasant experience (to put it mildly). But sometimes pedestrians suddenly appear start crossing unexpectedly as I am fully into the turn and then when I

stop I just pray to the traffic gods that there won't be an oncoming speeding car that is going to hit me while I wait.

I fully support the University contacting the city and getting something done about the timing of the traffic lights to make this intersection safe.

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From: **Angela Hunter** <anhunter@ualr.edu>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 12:10 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

I just this morning faced this very issue at the intersection mentioned; as a passenger I guided the driver in the right timing to turn and avoid the student/pedestrian. She was also aware and watching us, but in so many cases there is no co-pilot and the pedestrian may also be distracted.

Angela Hunter | Interim Chair of Department of Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Studies
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From: **Johanna** <jmthomas4@ualr.edu>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 12:12 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

A student was hit because of this at the end of last semester.

Dr. Johanna Thomas

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From: **Albert Everett** <aeverett@ualr.edu>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 12:18 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

I don't want to dilute this thread on this particularly dangerous intersection, but let's also

consider the bridge between the dorms and the new student center.

Albert

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From: **Andrew Deiser** <ajdeiser@ualr.edu>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 12:28 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

Hi all,

As chair of the Traffic Committee, I can say that the committee is well aware of this situation and recently met with Dave Millay and Bob Adams to discuss it. We are working to get city and county officials to come out and observe this dangerous intersection. Once they come out and observe things, we can then work toward making the necessary changes to make the intersection safe for students and faculty.

Best,

Andrew

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From: **Karen Russ** <kmruss@ualr.edu>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 12:47 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

Clea,

Thank you for starting this discussion. I am adding all the responses to my notes for the Parking and Traffic committee to support some of the complaints a few of us have already brought up in relation to pedestrian safety.

Karen

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From: **Bill Jacobson** <whjacobson@ualr.edu>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 12:54 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

As I recall, one of our UALR staff members was hit by a car in just that scenario either at the beginning of this semester or last fall! Bill

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Anne T Bradford** <atbradford@ualr.edu>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 1:16 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

And, there have been no painted crosswalks for several years at that intersection.

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Mark Krain** <makrain@ualr.edu>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 1:30 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

I am very familiar with that left turn. I make it almost everyday. That definitely is a hazardous situation for both the driver making the left turn and any pedestrians in that intersection.

This situation has existed for many, many years.

In New York City a few decades ago they tried a solution to a similar problem with a system called "the barn dance." At intersections facing such hazards that had the traffic lights set to all turn red at the same time for 15 seconds. For 15 seconds there were no cars or other vehicle traffic in the intersection from any direction. During those 15 seconds, pedestrians could cross in any direction including diagonally. The intersection would be flooded with people going in all possible directions, but no motor vehicles. That was a very safe situation for everybody, pedestrians and drivers alike. I suggest that we think about it.

If the barn dance doesn't fly, I think that the only long-term way to prevent a driver running into a pedestrian at some point is to build a footbridge over South University Ave. at that intersection. That is an expensive solution, but there is at least one fatality waiting to happen there somewhere in the near or distant future. Let's build that bridge and save a life. Or maybe we should build a pedestrian tunnel under South University Ave. at that intersection.

Mark Krain

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **W NS** <profsuter@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 1:45 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

A quick Google search reveals University Ave. is Rank 1 for traffic accidents. One block away from the intersection in question at Campus Drive is Little Rock's most dangerous intersections of all in terms of accidents: Asher/University. So extra caution is advised in a wide swath. AR does not prohibit handheld cell phone use over age 20---that doesn't help our situation near UALR.

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Bill Jacobson** <whjacobson@ualr.edu>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 2:23 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

Mark (and others)...I was instrumental in getting the light installed at Campus Drive and University Ave. many years ago. Can you imagine what it was like to get in and out of the university there without a light?! We have been tackling this problem ever since.

One solution might be to change the turn lane on University and move it over some to the left. This would mean losing the inside bus stop lane just beyond Campus Drive, but I think that's incidental to the adverse situation we are experiencing. Another compounding issue are the cars entering University from the shopping center there as the lanes don't line up with those on Campus Drive. I tried to get the city traffic engineers to program an all-stop cycle for pedestrians there and where the old Jiffy Lube is but they said that would tie up too much time in the cycles along University -- after all, traffic flow trumps pedestrian safety!!

So, we're back to our situation. We have already had one traffic/pedestrian collision this year and, thank goodness, the staff member was not killed. When I first started looking into putting lights at Campus Drive and 32nd Street, I was told that there hadn't been enough deaths there to warrant them. Maybe the thinking has changed. In order to effect some change we will have to work in coordination with the UALR Public Safety office, the City of LR traffic engineers and the State of Arkansas State Police (University is a state highway). Bill

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Karen Palmer** <klpalmer@ualr.edu>

Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 2:34 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

Wow. Not enough deaths? I disagree with them. One is too many. Sad.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Andrea Herrmann** <awherrmann@ualr.edu>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 2:43 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

The city and county officials might be encouraged to do more than "observe," since nothing is a better teacher than "doing." Have them take turns behind the wheel in a smaller type car trying to make that left turn at a busy time when pedestrians are likely to be crossing in the area and cars racing from the other direction. Shortly after classes let out and/or the at beginning or end of lunch time might be good times for experiencing both pedestrians and drivers. Or just before the first class in the morning? Oh, and have the other officials, when it isn't their turn to drive, be passengers, presumably white knuckling it in the same car.

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From: **Xiaoshen Wang** <xxwang@ualr.edu>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 3:29 PM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

On Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 2:23 PM, Bill Jacobson <whjacobson@ualr.edu> wrote:
Mark (and others)...I was instrumental in getting the light installed at Campus Drive and University Ave. many years ago. Can you imagine what it was like to get in and out of the university there without a light?! We have been tackling this problem ever since.

One solution might be to change the turn lane on University and move it over some to the left. This would mean losing the inside bus stop lane just beyond Campus Drive, but I think that's incidental to the adverse situation we are experiencing. Another compounding issue are the cars entering University from the shopping center there as the lanes don't line up with those on Campus Drive.

If they can realign the two lanes by using a center lane instead of using curbs, then it will be much much less dangerous.

Or they can install a big mirror some where to let the left turning drivers see the incoming traffic.



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Linda Stauffer** <lkstauffer@ualr.edu>
Date: Fri, Feb 13, 2015 at 10:32 AM
Subject: Re: Student pedestrian safety (see my diagram)
To: FACFOCUS@ualr.edu

Hi. I'm one of the left turn folks at that light. A while ago I decided to just wait for the green arrow if I couldn't see....probably the best decision, but all too often I see cars try to figure out if there is a northbound car coming. This takes driver's eyes off pedestrians. I agree this is a problem.

Also, I see drivers coming south on university at the light and then use the green to make a u-turn to go back north on university. I see this several times a week, and considering I only go through the intersection twice a day, I can assume the actual number of u-turns is quite high. When you are trying to turn right to go north on University Ave from Campus Drive, you are looking to the left and south....this can be very dangerous as the u-turn folks aren't looking to their left to see what you will do.

I think the whole design of Campus Drive and University Avenue needs to be reviewed. It is dangerous for drivers and pedestrians.

Warmly
Linda Stauffer

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