

Pedestrian Safety Request for Chester, CT

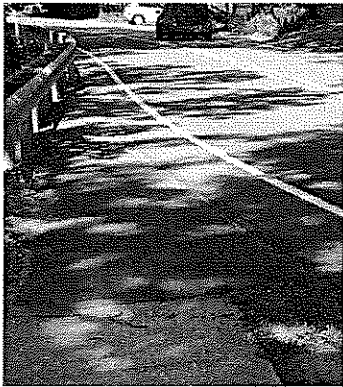
Pedestrian Crossing at the end of the Municipal sidewalk on West Main St.

The sidewalk leaving/entering Chester for pedestrians ends on a curve across from Jennings Pond on West Main St.

Pedestrians are forced to use the wider section of berm across the road and cross a blind curve to reach (or leave) the sidewalk on the other side of this busy State Road. The posted speed limit is 25 MPH, but many drivers are moving obviously faster when leaving or entering town. This could be easily checked/confirmed with a vehicle data monitor?

The proposal I suggest for pedestrian safety is that Chester officials would request the Department of Transportation Division in Newington:

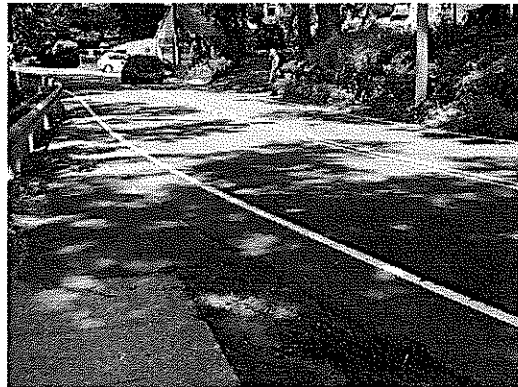
- Approve a painted pedestrian walk from the sidewalks end diagonally to the wider berm in front of the house @ 34 West Main St.
- A further safety measure suggested would be to place a pedestrian sign (facing both away and towards town) with a flashing yellow beacon. This would be seen from both lanes if placed at the sidewalk's end?



End of Sidewalk
Leaving the Town



A pedestrian crossed to this
sidewalk from the other side



The pedestrian in the background is
watching traffic & crossing to the
sidewalk.

I am the homeowner @ 34 West Main St.

I have watched everyday pedestrians trying to cross back and forth from the wider pavement in front of my house to or from the sidewalk into Chester. I and my family use it as well. I have seen some pedestrians using ski poles and canes as they cross as part of their exercise regime and need for stability. A few of these folks are elderly and take some time to cross.

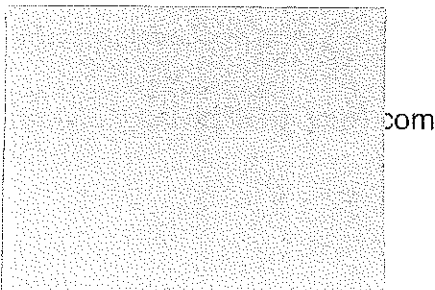
Close calls have been frequent and numerous. I have also observed two minor vehicle accidents (and more near accidents) since moving here in October. Both minor accidents occurred when a vehicle stopped to allow a pedestrian to finish crossing... and a distracted (or slightly speeding?) driver did not realize a person was crossing (which was why a vehicle was stopped). The two autos colliding were minor contact and I did not see the parties involved call the police or report an accident. They just exchanged information.

I first contacted Mr. Jon Guskowski from the township office who very kindly met me at this area and listened to my concerns. He was able to get me in touch with Mr. Greg Gallup; Transportation District Landscape Designer 2 for District II. **Mr. Gallup informed me that the procedure for having a pedestrian walkway and flashing caution sign would be for the city to request it from the CT Department of Transportation (Traffic Division in Newington?)**

If you need any confirmation that this safety enhancement would be a good thing to have, please feel free to give me a call and we can set up a visit on the corner of my property overlooking this crossing. I think after watching traffic a few minutes you will be convinced of its need. I really do mean that- feel free to do so? ☺

Kenneth H Younkin

34 West Main St. Chester, CT 06412





**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BUREAU OF HIGHWAY OPERATIONS**

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