

Slow Down for Safer Town

Laura Asermily • Washington Street Ext, Middlebury

Discussion

We teach children to make good eye contact, look both ways and signal intent to cross before crossing. We have crosswalk flags and rapid flashing beacon lights to help indicate this. But, as Bobbi Putnam notes, it does not spare pedestrians from being surprised by or nipped by speeding and distracted drivers. Our wonderful Mary Hogan School crossing guard Donna Woods witnesses this on Route 7 through our school zone during busy drop off and pick up times. She waves to traffic and crossing families and wishes all a good day. Some miss this in their rush to beat the changing light, some straddling the crosswalk forcing her to escort children around cars. She nods sadly when she sees this as well as drivers on cell phones. I join her on Walk and Roll days dressed as the banana. The banana is yellow--the best color to see from a distance. It is also the color of warning to slow down. It's true that pedestrians can be reckless--walking into traffic and surprising drivers, but drivers must bare the larger burden of watchfulness. Walkers hit by cars at 40 mph have 15% survival rate while those hit at 20 mph have 85% chance of survival. Thank you for slowing down and putting down your devices.

Cross Walk Lights, Crosswalks and Drivers

Bobbie Putnam • Cross St, Middlebury

Discussion

I was almost hit by a car in the Cross Street crosswalk by a driver who was speeding. So my question is, what good are these lights and crosswalks if noone stops. Everybody wants walk ,ride,or roll too school but what about everyday bikers and pedestrians using these places to cross the road? I think there should be cameras at ALL crosswalks and drivers who don't stop at them should be photographed and fined. What if it was a kid and this guy didn't stop? Think on that instead of worrying about fast food chains coming in. Next time it could be your child or grandchild.