

City of Lawrence
Traffic Safety Commission Agenda
January 7, 2013-7:00 PM
City Commission Room, City Hall

MEMBERS: Dan Harden, Chair; Edwin Rothrock, Vice-Chair; Stuart Boley; Ryan Devlin; Cody Howard; Jason Novotny; Tracy Russell; Chris Storm; and John Ziegelmeier Jr.

Anyone who wishes to be notified when an item will be heard by the City Commission must provide their name and a telephone number or an e-mail address.

ITEM NO. 1: Review and approve the minutes of the Traffic Safety Commission meeting, December 3, 2012.

ITEM NO. 2: Consider request for MARKED CROSSWALKS on 21st Street and on Greever Terrace at Virginia Street.

Staff Report:

1. A nation-wide study of over 900 crosswalks on two-lane roadways with no median found no significant difference in pedestrian crash rate at locations with marked crosswalks compared to locations without markings.
2. According to the "Americans with Disabilities Act", any pedestrian facility provided must be accessible to all pedestrians.
3. If a MARKED CROSSWALK is provided, curb ramps must be provided on both sides of the street
4. If curb ramps are provided, they must be connected to a sidewalk; otherwise, some pedestrians, such as low visibility, blind and pedestrians in wheelchairs would be stranded.
5. Virginia Street currently does not have sidewalks on either side of the street.

6. Therefore, if MARKED CROSSWALKS are provided, curb ramps and a sidewalk along Virginia Street would need to also be provided.

ITEM NO. 3: Consider request for PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNS on Folks Road at Freedom Creek Drive.

Staff Report:

1. An advance PEDESTRIAN CROSSING sign could be installed in advance of the intersection; however, it appears that the problem is very low visibility of pedestrians at that time of day and year (see attached pictures).
2. A better solution may be to install a street light on the east side of the street that would increase pedestrian visibility, both crossing the street and waiting near the street on the east side.
3. There is a street light on the southwest corner; however, the pedestrians cross on the north side of the intersection where the sidewalk along Freedom Creek Drive is located.

ITEM NO. 4: Public comment.

ITEM NO. 5: Commission Items.

ITEM NO. 6: Miscellaneous.

City of Lawrence
Traffic Safety Commission
January 7, 2013 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Harden, Chair; Edwin Rothrock, Vice-Chair; Stuart Boley;
Ryan Devlin; Cody Howard; Tracy Russell; and Chris Storm

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Novotny; and John Ziegelmeier, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT: David Woosley, Public Works Department

PUBLIC PRESENT: Craig Jacob; Betty Alderson; Linda Eagan

Chair Dan Harden called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 6 E. 6th Street.

ITEM NO. 1:

Review and approve the minutes of the Traffic Safety Commission meeting, December 3, 2012.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONERS BOLEY, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ROTHROCK, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING, DECEMBER 3, 2012; THE MOTION CARRIED, 4-0-3.

ITEM NO. 2:

Consider request for MARKED CROSSWALKS on 21st Street and on Greever Terrace at Virginia Street.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

Craig Jacob, 843 W. 22nd Street: My request was based on a couple of incidents; one was when my son turned the corner off of Carolina onto 22nd as students were heading to the tennis courts; there were two cars ahead of him and a student played chicken with them causing one to veer away and the other to

slam on the brakes; I had a similar incident as I was westbound on Greever and students were strung-out on the way to the tennis courts and one of the students decided to play chicken with me. It got me to thinking that there is nothing marked there and that for safety a crosswalk may be needed. We were told that a sidewalk would be provided when these facilities were built; but, that hasn't happened. It might help if just a sign could be put up warning of pedestrians.

Betty Alderson, 1400 Lilac Lane: I would certainly support anything you can do to relieve that situation; traffic moves very fast up-and-down Greever Terrace. There are no sidewalks in the area. Signage might help.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Rothrock: It seems very surprising that the plan to get the students from the school to the facilities is to walk in the street.

Commissioner Russell: It wouldn't make any sense to me to put a sidewalk on the west side of the street.

Commissioner Boley: I'm reluctant to move forward without hearing from the school district.

Commissioner Rothrock: I'm curious as to what happened to the original plans that included a sidewalk.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ROTHROCK, TO TABLE AND REQUEST INFORMATION FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0.

ITEM NO. 3:

Consider request for PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNS on Folks Road at Freedom Creek Drive.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

Linda Eagan, 520 Bently Drive: I drive that road five days a week. The photos show pretty well the low visibility of students trying to cross the street in the dark. The additional light pole is a really great tactical solution to an immediate problem of the darkness. Not only is it a low visibility crossing for students, but, drivers also face glare from on-coming traffic and they may not even realize that students are crossing the road. I think advance warning signs may also be needed; it would be a good risk mitigator.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Rothrock: This is a problem for probably 2-3 months a year.

Commissioner Russell asked about the process for an additional street light; Woosley advised that a request would be made to the Public Works Department and they have an evaluation process.

Commissioner Rothrock: I think an additional light is our best option.

Woosley advised that it would be possible to install SCHOOL BUS STOP AHEAD signing, which may be helpful in this particular situation; they are usually reserved for rural areas, but this is a unique situation.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROTHROCK, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER RUSSELL, TO RECOMMEND INSTALLATION OF A STREET LIGHT ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE STREET AND INSTALLATION OF "SCHOOL BUS STOP AHEAD" SIGNS; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0.

ITEM NO. 4:

Public Comment:

None.

ITEM NO. 5:

Commission Items:

Commissioner Rothrock asked about the status of a previous Traffic Safety Commission recommendation to establish NO PARKING along a portion of Dakota Street, east of Louisiana Street; Woosley advised that the City Commission tabled the request to give residents time to discuss the request within the neighborhood, and that it would be back on a City Commission agenda in the near future.

ITEM NO. 6:

Miscellaneous:

None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is Monday, February 4, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Woosley

David E. Woosley, P.E.
Transportation/Traffic Engineer

David Woosley

From: Craig and Gloria Jacob [cgjacob@sunflower.com]
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 10:21 AM
To: David Woosley
Cc: Matthew Brungardt
Subject: crosswalks/signs

My name is Craig Jacob and I live in the Centennial Neighborhood. There have been times when pedestrians and vehicles on 21st Street and again on Greever at Virginia Street create a dangerous situation. High school students are crossing to go to the tennis courts during class time or to the baseball field after school. There have been several close pedestrian vs. vehicle encounters. Before someone gets hit, can crosswalks and/or signs be placed to alert drivers and give students a specific place to cross. Some students assume drivers are going to stop and drivers assume there is no crosswalk and they don't need to stop. While both assumptions may be false, that doesn't negate the real danger of an accident at these intersections.

I am not sure of what the regulations are to place crosswalks and/or signs, but there a need for something to make everyone aware of this situation.

If you have questions, please contact me.

Craig Jacob

843 West 22nd St.

842-5265

cgjacob@sunflower.com

Thank you for your time and consideration.

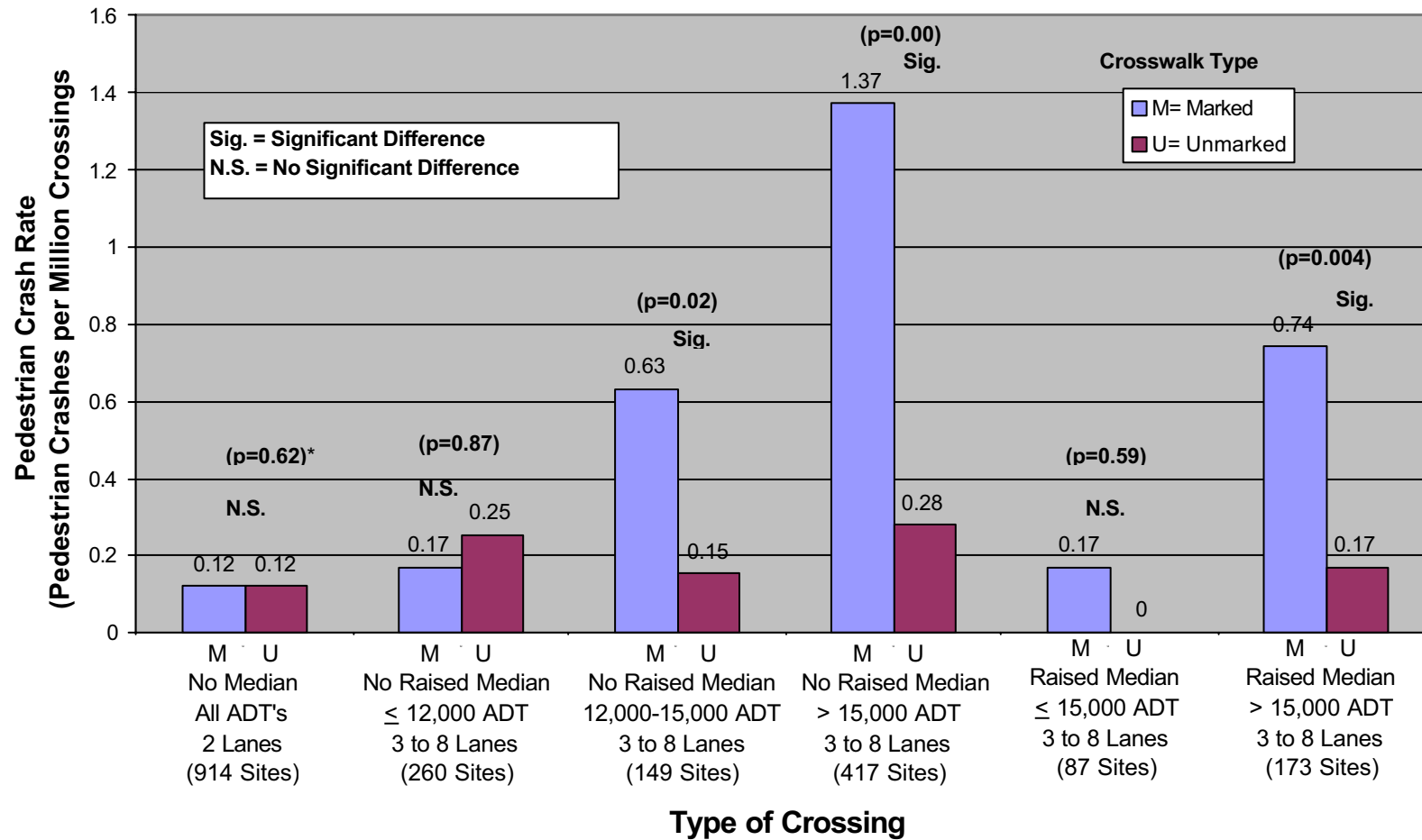
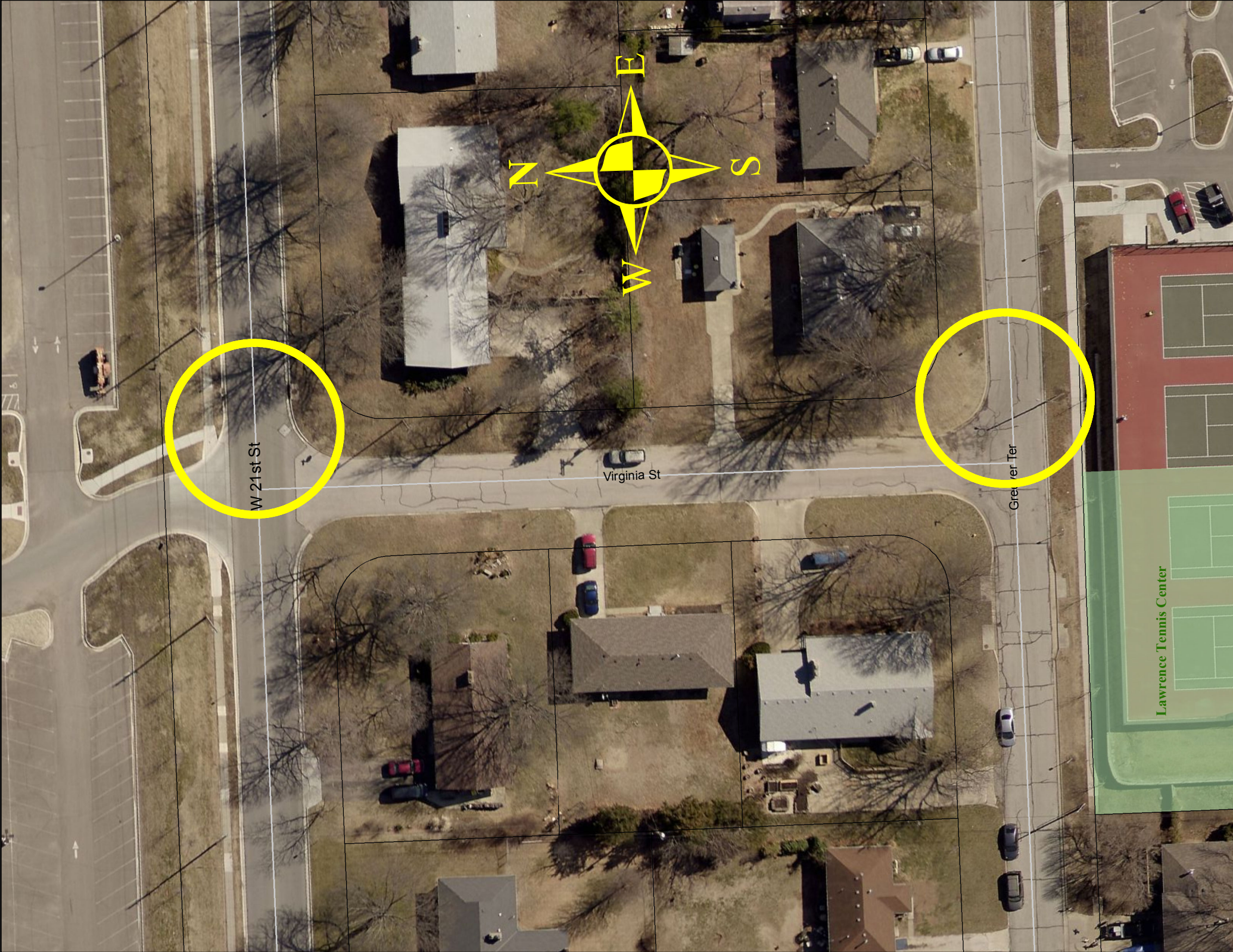


Figure 4. Pedestrian crash rate vs. type of crossing.



David Woosley

From: lindae@sunflower.com
Sent: Sunday, December 02, 2012 11:33 AM
To: David Woosley
Subject: School bus stop at Folks Rd. and Freedom Creek Ct.

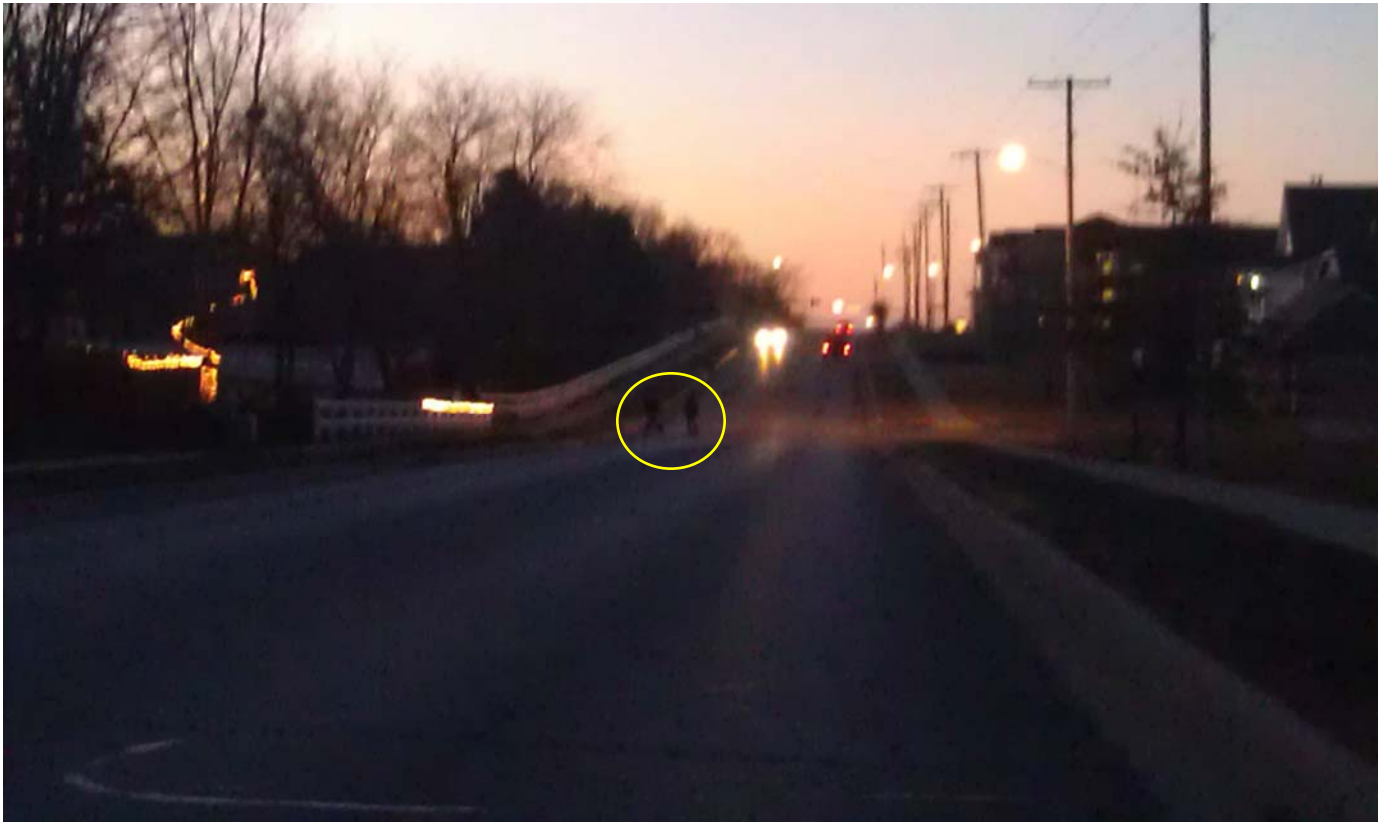
I would like to request that the city monitor and consider placing a 'pedestrian crossing' sign at the intersection of Folks Road and Freedom Creek Ct. The east side of that intersection is a collector point for a school bus. There are junior-high age kids crossing that street early on weekday mornings - around 7:00 am and after. I travel that road to work; I go through there about 7-7:15 weekdays.

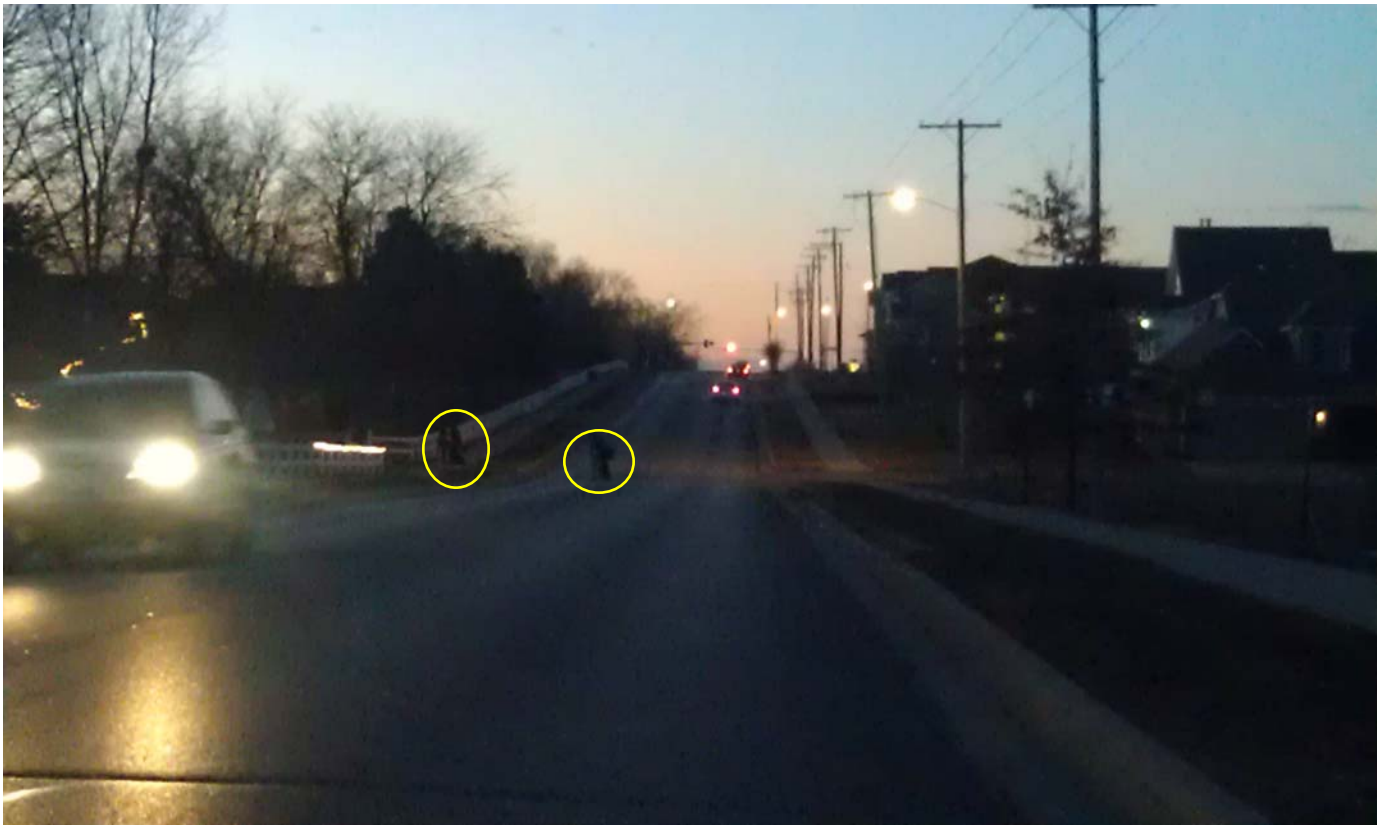
Because of moving from day-light savings time, in November and December - the kids are collecting there in the dark or just before sunup. This makes an unnecessary hazard for them crossing the street. They can be hard to see in the dark. Folks Road is a much-traveled road; especially for those that travel west on Peterson Road to get to 6th St, and high-schoolers that are getting to Overland Dr. I see the kids on these mornings and can only hope that no one gets hit because its not daylight yet and they are hard to see. I believe a 'pedestrian crossing' sign might at least help to alert drivers to the fact that it is a crossing point.

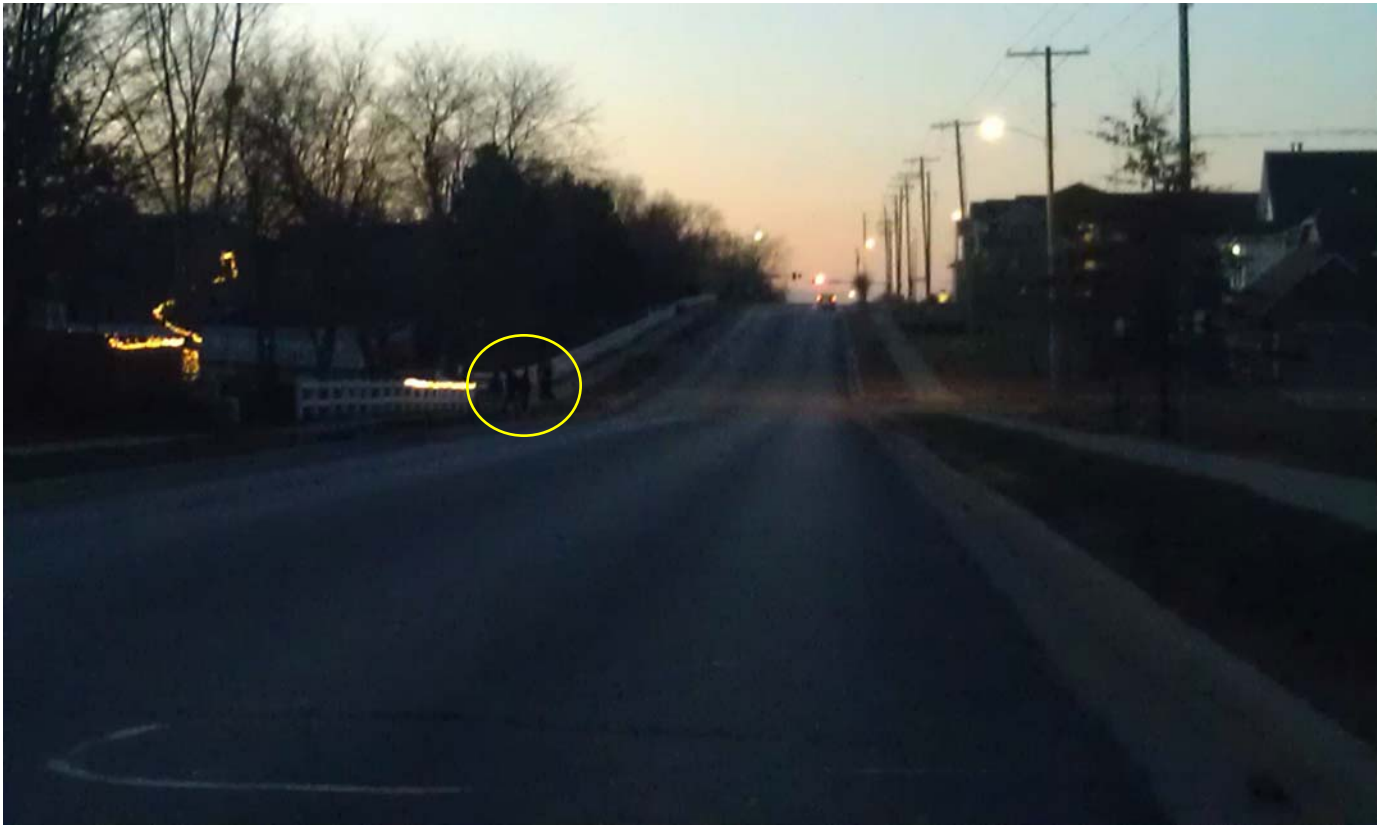
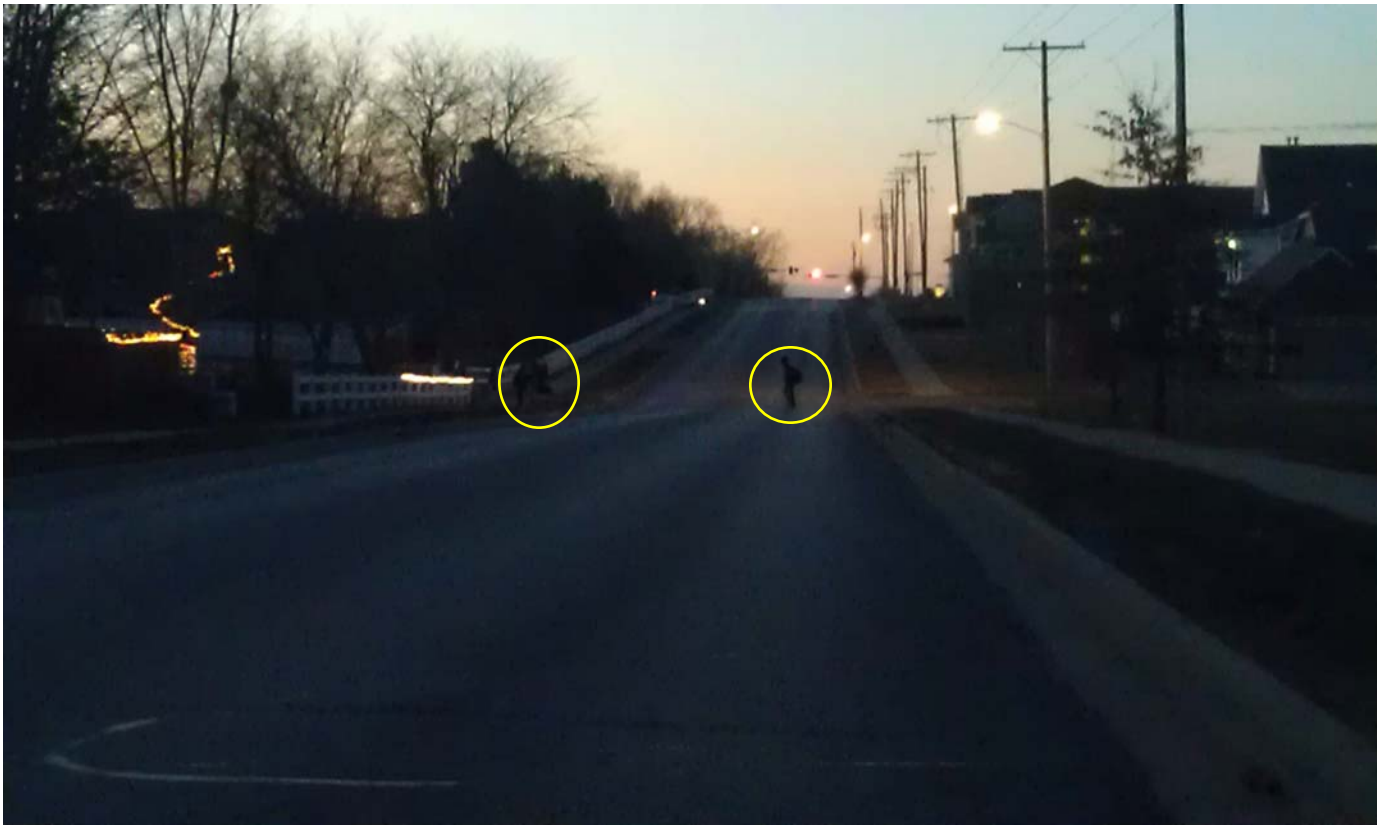
I don't know the process to start a request. I called 842-3035 (Traffic Signs and Signals) on Friday, 11/30, and was given the name of David Woosley, Traffic Engineer, at 832-3034 as a reference. I was also told that a written request would be needed, and email was acceptable form.

Thanks for your consideration of this issue.
Linda Eagan
520 Bently Dr.
Lawrence, KS 66049
842-6624











Freedom Creek Dr

Folks Rd

