

PROJECT #3: PEDESTRIAN CROSSING



D Street is an important east/west corridor for people trying to get to Cub Foods, the only grocery store within walking distance of the neighborhood. There is a lot of people walking and biking through this area out of necessity, even though there are no facilities for walking and biking.

The most difficult part of this trip is crossing 5th Avenue. There are no crosswalks or other indicators of high non-motorized use, except for a warning sign indicating the potential for individuals in wheelchairs. Ironically, this sign faces west – not the source of the problem – and thus seems to be warning people in *wheelchairs* to be careful.

To raise a minimum level of awareness among drivers to the potential of pedestrians and bikers, and visa-versa, an intersection-wide crosswalk needs to be established. This is a base step in alerting everyone entering this intersection to be alert for potential conflicts.

This project constitutes a small step beyond what is otherwise routine maintenance.

Immediate Objectives

1. Improve the safety for bikers crossing 5th Avenue.
2. Improve safety for pedestrians crossing 5th Avenue.
3. Improve safety for automobiles operating along 5th Avenue.

Project

1. Establish crosshatch striping throughout the intersection.

Project Cost
\$850

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Crosshatch striping is a common technique used worldwide. It announces to all who enter the intersection – drivers, walkers and bikers alike – that this place is different, to be alert to the potential for conflict.

The approach is used by Cub Foods outside their entrance a mere block away from this site.



Crosshatching is an inexpensive, short term fix. Changing the dimensions and function of 5th Avenue, adding sidewalks to D Street and tightening the intersection with concrete bump outs are longer term solutions, but they have a much greater expense.



Given the current budget constraints of the city and the modest volume of traffic – both pedestrian and automobile – in this corridor, the interim approach of crosshatching is a prudent step to take to address the current safety problem.