

PROJECT #4: PEDESTRIAN CROSSING



C 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, and other destinations in this commercial node. 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, which is excessively wide and induces traffic to travel at dangerous speeds. There are no crosswalks or other indicators of non-motorized use. The lack of on-street parking wide curb radii mean pedestrians have a wide gap to cross.

To raise a minimum level of awareness among drivers to the potential of pedestrians and bikers, and visa-versa, a standard 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 a crosswalk at the intersection.

Project Cost
\$400

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The use of a crosswalk in an intersection is a common technique used throughout the city. 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.



Establishing a crosswalk is an inexpensive, short term fix. Changing the dimensions and function of 5th Avenue, adding sidewalks to C Street and tightening the intersection with concrete bump outs are longer term solutions that come at 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 establishing a crosswalk is a prudent step to take to address the current safety problem.