

Pedestrian Safety Taskforce Report Township of Teaneck Date: February 3, 2025

The Pedestrian Safety Taskforce met on February 3, 2025, to discuss initiatives aimed at improving pedestrian safety in Teaneck. The focus was on identifying high-priority intersections for safety enhancements, evaluating enforcement efforts, and planning collaborative measures with county and regional partners.

Attendees

- Manager Jaclyn Hashmat
- Councilwoman Hillary Goldberg
- Councilman Michael Pagan
- Michael Rochlin, Resident Representative
- William Yarzab, Street Smart Coordinator
- Farah Gilani, Township of Teaneck Engineer
- Charles Antinori, Teaneck Police Department
- Lisa Lee, EZ Ride
- Nancy Dargis, Bergen County Planning and Engineering

Pedestrian Safety Data and Trends

- Most pedestrian accidents occur in low-light conditions, particularly in the evening.
- A significant number of incidents involve jaywalking. Mid-block crossings (Crosswalk by movie theater) have also been a problem due to traffic, double parking, and visibility.
- Speeding and distracted driving remain major concerns in pedestrian-heavy areas.
- The township's pedestrian safety initiatives align with Vision Zero efforts to eliminate pedestrian fatalities.

Current Enforcement Initiatives

- The Teaneck Police Department has been enforcing pedestrian safety laws using grant funding for additional officer shifts.
- Over 300 summonses have been issued, with approximately 400 vehicles stopped.
- Educational materials, including Street Smart graphics, have been distributed across business districts.
- Reflective pedestrian belts, donated by Rothenberg Law Firm, have been distributed to schools and houses of worship.

Priority Intersection Selection

The taskforce identified three key locations for immediate safety improvements:

1. Cedar Lane (500 block, near the movie theater)
 - High pedestrian traffic with double-parking concerns limiting visibility.
 - Proposal to install an RRFB pedestrian beacon and introduce handheld pedestrian flags.
 - Ongoing enforcement against double-parking violations.
2. Queen Anne Road & Ayers Court
 - Busy pedestrian area with ongoing construction work.
 - Need for traffic calming measures and potential infrastructure improvements.
3. South Queen Anne Road (Vandelinda to DeGraw Avenue)
 - Safety concerns due to bus stops on both sides of the road.
 - High number of pedestrians crossing to access NYC-bound buses.
 - Need for additional safety measures such as enhanced signage and improved lighting.

Infrastructure and Engineering Solutions

- Installation of delineators at high-risk crosswalks to prevent illegal double-parking.
- Creation of short-term parking zones (15-minute limits) near businesses.
- Designation of loading zones for delivery trucks to reduce congestion.
- Improved wayfinding signage directing drivers to municipal parking lots.

Community Outreach and Education

- Expansion of public awareness campaigns using social media and community channels.
- Coordination with local businesses to display parking and pedestrian safety information.
- Development of a PSA video featuring local officials and law enforcement.
- School safety education programs, including pedestrian and bike safety workshops.

Next Steps and Timeline

Immediate Actions (February 2025):

- Continue targeted enforcement and data collection.
- Review feasibility of adjusting parking regulations near businesses.

- Plan a media kickoff event for the Street Smart campaign in March 2025.
- Coordinate with county officials on infrastructure improvements.
- Assess pedestrian accident reports to refine enforcement strategies.

Mid-Term Actions (March-April 2025):

- Implement demonstration projects for parking adjustments and crosswalk safety measures.
- Expand community education efforts, including presentations at senior center and Teaneck Public Library.
- Initiate traffic and speed studies at identified high-risk locations.
- Launch a public engagement campaign, including a town hall discussion.

Long-Term Actions (Summer 2025 and Beyond):

- Evaluate pedestrian safety improvements based on enforcement and education efforts.
- Assess Stop and Shop Redevelopment impacts on parking availability and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Monitor and collect data on the effectiveness of interventions.
- Propose long-term infrastructure improvements, including roadway reconfigurations for pedestrian safety.

Additional Information

- Funding and Grants: The township is seeking additional grants for safety measures and infrastructure improvements.
- Collaboration with Businesses: Local businesses will support pedestrian safety awareness and delivery procedures.
- Public Involvement: Residents are encouraged to report hazardous conditions and attend pedestrian safety town halls.
- School and Youth Engagement: Educational workshops will be expanded in middle and high schools (Including public and private schools).
- Traffic Signal Upgrades: Evaluations will ensure adequate pedestrian crossing times at high-traffic intersections.

The Pedestrian Safety Taskforce has made significant progress in identifying problem areas, strengthening enforcement, and planning collaborative efforts with the county and other stakeholders. With a structured approach, Teaneck aims to create a safer pedestrian

environment while balancing business and traffic concerns. The taskforce will reconvene in the coming weeks to assess progress and refine next steps