



Town of West Newbury
381 Main Street, West Newbury, MA 01985
Tel. 978-363-1100, ext. 115 Fax 978-363-1826
selectboard@wnewbury.org

August 9, 2022

Paul Stedman, District 4 Highway Director
519 Appleton Street
Arlington, MA 02476

Dear Mr. Stedman,

In consultation with the Town of West Newbury's Select Board, I am writing to you in regards to pedestrian safety on Main Street (State Route 113) in our town. Over the past few years, the community has experienced an increase in pedestrian volume around our town and many of this increased pedestrian activity is occurring on Main Street.

With the recent Rocks Village Bridge closure, which has increased vehicle volumes on Main Street, and post-pandemic pedestrian and bicycle volume increases around town, we have heard many complaints from our residents regarding crosswalk safety on Main Street.

About two years ago, MassDOT updated two crosswalks on Main Street at both our schools from standard 12" wide parallel lines to 12" wide ladder type crosswalks. They have since failed due to plowing; however, when present, their visibility was much greater than the standard crosswalk.

We would like to request that the standard 12" wide parallel line crosswalks at our high pedestrian volume crosswalks on Main Street also be upgraded to the more visible 12" wide ladder type crosswalks in thermoplastic, tape or epoxy material. This improvement would be welcomed by our community and studies have shown that ladder type crosswalks are more visible than standard 12" parallel lines crosswalks. We were hoping that these upgrades could be done during MassDOT's scheduled routine repainting program for Main Street.

We have prepared a list of what we believe to be our high pedestrian volume crossings on Main Streets. These crosswalks are located on;

1. Main Street at Crane Neck Street
2. Main Street at Harrison Avenue
3. Main Street at Merrill Street
4. Main Street at Newell Farm Drive
5. Main Street in front of #282 at signalized intersection. (The painted stop lines should also be moved to a point 40 feet from the traffic signal head indications.)
6. Main Street at Maple Street

7. Maple Street at Main Street
8. Church Street at Main Street
9. Main Street in front of #378 (Town Offices)
10. Main Street in front of #384 (Town Offices)
11. Main Street at Bachelor Street
12. Bridge Street at Main Street
13. Main Street in front of #491 Main Street (Town Hall)

The upgrading of these crosswalks would improve the safety at these selected crossings in our town and continue to support walking as a viable alternative to driving and also continue to support our recreational walking activities.

Any assistance that you can offer would be appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at DPWDirector@WNewbury.org or by phone at 978-992-8915.

Sincerely,

Wayne S. Amaral
DPW Director / CPO

cc:
Angus Jennings, Town Manager
Select Board Members