

Christie Teets

From: Rachel Johnson <stargazer21714@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 12:42 PM
To: Christie Teets
Subject: Letter to be read publicly at tonight's meeting 10/12/22
Attachments: 10_6_22 Student Injury Accident.pdf

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter as a long time citizen of Molalla, a concerned mother, and a deeply effected fellow human being. I would like to request that a blinking cross walk sign that is activated when a button is pushed by the crossing pedestrian be installed at the intersection of Molalla Avenue and Frances St.

I make this plea in response to an innocent on Thursday October 6th 2022 where I witnessed a high school student being hit by an on coming north bound vechicle while he crossed the road in the cross walk at the intersection of Molalla Ave. and Frances St. on his way to the high school. He crossed directly in front of my stopped south bound car and was hit just as he passed my car. I provided aide to the child while waiting for help to arrive.

It was just after 7 am a very high traffic time for children walking to the high school. The light was low as the sun was just rising. This poses a problem as fall has arrived and the visabilty is only going to get worse as the time goes on causing this high pedestrian block of time will get darker. It also needs to be considered that rain and fog will soon be a factor to only hinder the visibility even more so.

I believe if there had been a blinking cross walk sign that could have been activated when the child went to cross the street this accident could have had a higher likelihood of being avoided. I believe that a pedestrian activated blinking light would be much more effective as people tend to get numb to a sign that has a constant blinking light or no light at all as there is currently at this location. I have experienced the pedestrian activated cross walk sign that is at the Stone Place apartment complex on Highway 213. I know for me the lights flashing definitely brought my attention to the cross walk making me look both in the cross walk and the sidewalks before continuing through.

There was other witnesses on scene that would like to write letters but I was unable to obtain the letters intersection short period of time before this meeting. I will collect these letters and provide them for the next meeting. I have also included the letter sent out to all of the families in the district by the Molalla High School principal after this inncodent took place.

I ask the council to consider being proactive to protect our children and all pedestrians in these low light conditions by installing a better tool to notify drivers of the pedestrians crossing that will be visible to both North and south bound traffic.

No one should ever have to hold a child's hand and reassure them they are not going to die as I did on



DR. DAVID ATHERTON, PRINCIPAL
MOLALLA HIGH SCHOOL

ADDRESS: 357 FRANCES STREET MOLALLA, OR 97038-0309

PHONE: 503-829-2355

FAX: 503-829-6382

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://MHS.MOLALLARIV.K12.OR.US](https://mhs.molallariv.k12.or.us)

October 6, 2022

Dear Molalla families, students, and community,

I want to inform you of an accident that occurred this morning during arrival near the high school. A student was correctly using the crosswalk at Frances and Molalla. An adult driver was distracted and hit the student. Other students were walking and commuting to school at the time. Some witnessed the accident and some were impacted as emergency responders arrived on the scene. Counselors and administration will be monitoring students who may be impacted by the incident.

Our school resource officer, Jamil Kassab, immediately went to the scene of the accident and coordinated the emergency response. The student's family was contacted and were on the scene quickly. The student is in stable condition but was transported to the hospital for a medical examination. We are not releasing any other information with respect to the student and family's privacy.

As we head into Fall, light conditions are changing and fog, clouds, and eventually the rain will make it more difficult to see. Please drive cautiously and remain attentive to the road, conditions, and pedestrians. Keeping our students safe in transit to and from school is a community responsibility. Please use this opportunity to talk with your child about traffic and pedestrian safety guidelines and to be aware of their surroundings. Thank you for helping keep everyone's child safe.

Sincerely,

David Atherton, Ed.D.

Principal

(503) 759-7301

david.atherton@molallariv.k12.or.us