

WalkBike Springfield

Residents working to improve the safety of walking and bicycling in Springfield

September 9, 2019

Domenic J. Sarno
Springfield City Hall
36 Court Street
Springfield, Massachusetts 01103

Dear Mayor Sarno,

Almost five years ago, a seven year old child was killed crossing State Street from the Springfield Central Library's parking lot to the Library. Daily, library staff and patrons to both the Library and the Springfield Museums make hundreds of the direct mid-block crossing rather than walk an additional 390 feet (almost 1 ½ football fields) down and up hill and wait as much as 90 seconds for a walk signal! State Street is currently designed for vehicle movement, not respecting what walkers will do.

The City of Springfield cannot continue to just insist no changes can be made to make the crossing more convenient and safer for walkers. As long as there are vehicle entrances on both sides of State Street, pedestrians will cross.

WalkBike Springfield, Way Finders, and the Armoury Quadrangle Civic Association ask the City to explore options with us. These discussions should also include representatives from MassDOT who can allow "reasonable exceptions" to their requirements. Let's discuss what might be these "reasonable exceptions."

We need to brainstorm multiple solutions

- Obtaining an agreement for library staff to park in the Archdioceses nearby parking lots (the current Edwards Street lots are filled to capacity nearly every day)
- Narrowing State Street to two travel lanes in that roadway section – all would benefit from all vehicles on State Street moving more slowly
- Installing a median or island
- Closing the lot entrance on State Street and entering/exiting the parking lot on the Temple Street side
- More, more, more.....

State Street is considered an urban arterial despite cutting through a dense urban neighborhood. Let's make our City truly age friendly and a model for walkability. There is a solution to this current dangerous situation and rethinking how vehicles do and can travel through our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,
Betsy Johnson
Convener WalkBike Springfield

www.walkbikespringfieldma.org



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