



THE HILL NORTH MANAGEMENT TEAM

HOWARD BOYD, CHAIR
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September 1, 2020

Douglas Hausledan
City of New Haven
Transportation, Traffic and Parking
165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

Dear Mr. Hausledan:

On behalf of the Hill North Community Management Team, we appreciate your bringing to our attention the CT DOT 2022 Project for Traffic Signal Upgrade planned at the Rte. 10-Ella Grasso Boulevard and Rte. 1-Columbus Avenue/Orange Avenue intersection. We sincerely hope that this upgrade will not only be an upgrade to the vehicular traffic signals but will also include the installation of desperately needed pedestrian cross walk signals. We are also gravely concerned about the timeline for this project. And the term gravely does not adequately represent the actual fear we have of the number of **ADDITIONAL** pedestrian fatalities that may take place at these dangerous intersections before one crosswalk signal is installed.

The intersection of Ella Grass Boulevard (Rte. 10) and Columbus Avenue/Orange Avenue (Rte. 1) is made up of a **TOTAL OF 20 VEHICULAR TRAVEL LANES** ... 5 lanes of traffic at each crossing that must be crossed to get to the closest corner ... all with **NO PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNAL LIGHTS!** Pedestrians who disembark from **State of CT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION** vehicles at designated bus stops must cross **CT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION** roads within striped crosswalks but without benefit of crossing signals!!!

The intersection of Ella Grass Boulevard (Rte. 10) and Columbus Avenue/Orange Avenue (Rte. 1) is a heavily pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular traveled roadway that connects the cities of New Haven and West Haven. There are six (6) CT Transit bus stops at that intersection the Orange Avenue side of this intersection which is predominantly occupied by commercial property and greenspace. But the Columbus Avenue side leads directly into the densely populated Hill neighborhood by way of Davenport Avenue, Congress Avenue and Columbus Avenue. Further down on Rte. 10-Ella Grasso Blvd is the Columbus House Homeless Shelter, Adult Education, the Flea Market, Truman Street School and McClain Park ... areas which are all heavily traversed.

Many of our Hill residents walk, bike or use public transportation to get to their various places of employment on Rte. 1 between New Haven and Milford, jobs at Dunkin Donuts, Dairy Queen, McDonalds, Burger King, Target, Shoprite, Burlington, Costco, Walmart, and the CT Post Mall. This intersection of Rte. 10 & Rte. 1 is also traversed by many students who walk, bike or take public transportation to the NH Adult Education on Rte. 10 and University of West Haven on Rte. 1. We also host hundreds to thousands of people who visit the Flea Market on Rte. 10-Ella Grasso Blvd. on the weekends, arriving by foot, bike, bus or car. We dread their crossing of this dangerous roadway and painfully await for either their arrival home or the dreadful knock on the door telling us our loved one was injured ...or worse yet killed on a road they have no choice but to travel every day to earn a livelihood.

This letter, however, is to express our concern that the work is not expected to begin until late 2022. This long put-off date is not acceptable to the Hill Community as it most likely will result in more pedestrian **DEATHS!!!** Since 2006 there have been numerous pedestrian fatalities ... human beings who were struck and killed by 2 ton vehicles while trying to cross streets that have **NO PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNALS THAT STOP TRAFFIC!!!!**

- **9/1/2020 Eric Pechonis a 52 year old male died** after being hit by a car on Rte. 10-Ella Grasso Blvd at Rte. 1-Orange Ave
- **1/14/2020 Arthur Bastek a 50 year old male died** after being hit by a car on Rte. 10-Ella Grasso Blvd at Rte. 1-Orange Ave
- **8/10/2019 Lony Bosquet a 43 year old male died** after being hit by TWO cars on Rte. 10-Ella Grasso Blvd at Truman Street
- **9/16/2017 Sheneka Woods a 38 year old female** after being hit by TWO cars on Rte. 10-Ella Grasso Blvd at Rte.1-Orange Ave
- **4/03/2017 Ranko Borak a 43 year old male died** after being hit by a car on Rte. 10-Ella Grasso Blvd at Washington Avenue
- **6/24/2014 Frank Aceto a 49 year old male** after being hit by a car on Rte. 10-Ella Grasso Blvd at Rte. 1-Orange Ave

We have included with this letter photos of these dangerous crossings. We have included aerial photos of this dangerous intersections. The news media can corroborate each of these pedestrian fatalities. Will the installation of crosswalk signals render these intersections safe ... probably not. But they will ... at the very least give provide pedestrians with a window of 25-30 seconds to arrive safely across the street. In addition, there will be the need for **'NO TURN ON RED'** enforcement so pedestrians won't get clipped by impatient vehicular operators. Cameras will help with that. The timing of these pedestrian crossing signals will also provide traffic calming on these roadways as vehicles will have to come to complete stops to allow pedestrian crossing.

We the residents of the Hill Community, represented by the leadership of the Hill North Community Management Team insist that you move the **CT DOT 2022 Project for Traffic Signal Upgrade** project up considerably, to early Spring 2021 TO SAVE LIVES.

And we would appreciate receiving confirmation of this rescheduling. Lives are at stake in and from our neighborhood ... our lives, our family, friends and neighborhoods lives are at stake. And we cannot ... we will not wait until 2022.

Again, we thank you for providing us with the notice of this project. We also appreciate your sharing the concerns in this letter with the State Legislators who can and we expect **WILL** move this project up to the spring of 2021.

Respectfully,

Hill North Community Management Team Executive Board
Howard Boyd, Chairman
Jose De Jesus, Treasurer
Leslie Radcliffe, Advisor

Dr. Pamela Monk Kelley, Vice Chair
Maxine Harris, Secretary

Cc The Honorable Justin Elicker, Mayor, City of New Haven
Giavonni Zinn, Engineer, City of New Haven
Ron Hurt, Alder, Ward 3, City of New Haven Board of Alders
Evelyn Rodrigues, Ward 4, City of New Haven Board of Alders
Kampton Singh, Ward 5, City of New Haven Board of Alders
Carmen Rodriguez, Ward 6, City of New Haven Board of Alders
Juan Candelaria, Connecticut House of Representatives, D-95th District
Patricia Dillon, Connecticut House of Representatives, D-92th District
Roland Lemar, Connecticut House of Representatives House Chair of the Transportation Committee



Ella Grasso (Rte 10) South @
Orange Ave & Columbus Ave

Columbus Ave South @
Ella Grasso (Rte 10) &
Orange Ave &



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Orange Ave @
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Columbus Ave

