

## **The Consequences of Incomplete Streets**

These news accounts of pedestrian deaths on incomplete streets were compiled from newsletter articles by the National Complete Streets Coalition.

### **October 2009**

#### **Susan Ramirez**

Las Vegas, NV | Susana Ramirez, 55, tried to cross busy East Charleston Boulevard in Las Vegas on October 13th when she was fatally struck by a car. The 7-lane road is lined with residences and numerous shops, but only has very narrow sidewalks that lack any buffer from the vehicular lanes and crosswalks are few and far between - the nearest crosswalk was over 400 yards from where she was hit.

- *Las Vegas Sun*, Oct. 14, 2009: <http://tinyurl.com/ybta8h8>

### **September 2009**

#### **Stacey Jane Morgan**

Oakdale, MN | New mom Stacey Jane Morgan was out running in her Oakdale, MN neighborhood on September 17, along a busy residential road with no sidewalks. Morgan, pushing her 3-month-old daughter in a stroller, was fatally struck from behind; her daughter was unharmed. Police said the teen driver was not speeding or drunk.

- *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, Sept. 18, 2009: <http://tinyurl.com/yzhddb>

### **August 2009**

#### **Timothy Shawn**

Germantown, MD | Timothy Shawn, 57-year-old resident of Germantown, Maryland, was killed by a car when attempting to cross Clopper Road in Germantown on August 10th. According to the police spokesman, there is no streetlight in the immediate area of the crash, which happened at 8:30 p.m. In addition, the Gazette reports a lack of sidewalks and no crosswalk in the location where it occurred.

- *Montgomery County Gazette*, Aug. 11 2009: <http://tinyurl.com/ylnr3ds>

### **July 2009**

#### **Thomas Keating**

Greenport, NY | In Long Island, New York, 43 year-old Thomas Keating was killed crossing the street in front of the Soundview restaurant. Although there is a crosswalk, the crossing is dangerous because of the high traffic speeds, according to the owner of Soundview restaurant, Rachel Murphy. The restaurant has overflow parking on the other side of the 50 mph road, and Murphy has asked the county government make improvements for pedestrian safety. The county responded by presenting a plan that includes narrowing the roadway and adding a median with a planter to calm traffic. Murphy shares with the Suffolk Times, "We no longer have rural traffic patterns here. It's a tourist zone. Reduce the speed."

Town Supervisor Tom Russell agrees that more changes are needed because the crosswalk is not sufficient. There have been a total of 23 accidents of varying types in front of Soundview since 1997.

- *Suffolk Times*, July 16, 2009: <http://tinyurl.com/ntm2hc>

**June 2009**  
**John Wilson**  
**Virginia Noll**

Greenburgh, NY | On June 10th, John Wilson was hit and killed by a car when crossing on White Plains Road in Greenburgh, NY. The 66-year-old was crossing in a crosswalk when he was hit, but was not seen by the driver, who was making a left turn. Although there is a marked crosswalk, navigating the street safely is still difficult. According to the *Journal-News*, the area is close to two major bus stops, multiple apartment complexes, several office parks, hotels and restaurants, making it a well-traveled route for both cars and pedestrians. Runners, walkers and dog owners also use the area, residents said. However, Old White Plains Road lacks a complete sidewalk network and motorists face several blind spots.

- *Journal News*, June 10, 2009: <http://tinyurl.com/y8jk5gf>

Wilkes-Barre, PA | After grocery shopping on June 11th, Virginia Noll was dropped off at the bus stop across the street from her home in Wilkes-Barre Pennsylvania, an apartment building housing older adults. As she crossed South Washington Street around 5:30 pm, she was fatally struck by an SUV, reports the *Citizens Voice*. Her neighbor, Mary Cromack, commented that she had warned Noll to stay in, worrying that the 88-year-old would be hit while crossing a street. Another neighbor, Nicholas B. Borowitz, noted in the *Times-Leader* that the area was particularly dangerous for older adults, despite how many of them live in the area.

- *Wilkes-Barre Citizens Voice*, June 12, 2009: <http://tinyurl.com/yh7v9a9>

**April 2009**  
**Jameson Mantas**

Escondido, CA | On April 20, Jameson Mantas was crossing Riverside Drive in Lake Elsinore, CA on foot when a car fatally struck him. Sidewalks on the stretch of road between Walnut Drive and Joy Street are piecemeal, and crosswalks are nonexistent - an inhospitable environment that makes simply walking between a commercial area and residences to the north dangerous.

- *North County Times*, April 22, 2009: <http://tinyurl.com/ylyfbdad>

**March 2009**  
**Nicholas Polischuk**

McHenry County, IL | After leaving a restaurant on Richmond Road in McHenry County, IL, Nicholas Polischuk, 40, was killed by a car on March 1. Polischuk was legally blind. Despite

the high level of commercial development in the area, there are no sidewalks or crosswalks in the area, and no accessibility improvements for people with disabilities.

- *Northwest Herald*, March 6, 2009: <http://tinyurl.com/dkjdxh>

### **February 2009**

#### **Ernest Stedge**

Pomona, NY | As he was crossing Route 202 near Ladentown Road in Pomona, NY, Ernest Stedge was fatally struck by an automobile. According to the Journal News, Stedge had taught mathematics for thirty years and was planning to retire this spring. The driver of the vehicle said he did not see Stedge in the street. There are no sidewalks or crosswalks in the commercial area where the victim was hit.

- *The Journal News*, Jan. 31, 2009: <http://tinyurl.com/ydvpwyd>

### **January 2009**

#### **David Hays**

Everett, WA | David Hays, 58, died after being struck by a car while crossing Highway 99 near Gibson Road. Hays had recently gotten off a bus and was pushing himself across the 72-foot road in his wheelchair when a car failed to stop. The intersection does not have marked crosswalks. Despite the bus stops on both sides of Highway 99 at that intersection, the nearest marked crosswalks are at least a ½ mile away. In the past five years, one other person has been killed along that stretch of road; thirteen more have been injured.

- *The Everett Herald*: <http://tinyurl.com/aaa6cz>

### **December 2008**

#### **Jerome Meuwissen**

Minneapolis, MN | An SUV struck and killed an 86-year-old man as he walked in the crosswalk of a busy Chaska highway early Wednesday while on his way to daily mass. Jerome Meuwissen of Chaska was crossing Hwy 41 at 2nd Street. Meuwissen was walking to Guardian Angels Catholic Church, less than two blocks from where he was hit and a few blocks from his home, said the Rev. Paul Jarvis. Older parishioners who live on the east side of Hwy 41, where Meuwissen lived, often can't walk to church because of the speeding traffic, Jarvis said.

- *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, Dec. 3, 2008: <http://tinyurl.com/8bsjca>

### **November 2008**

#### **Brandee Kelley**

Smyrna, GA | Altamesa Walker led her four young children across a major five-lane thoroughfare in suburban Atlanta early morning on November 17. The family had missed its bus was attempting to reach the bus stop on the opposite side in hopes of catching an alternate bus. There was no crosswalk between the two bus stops, and both are located several hundred feet from the nearest intersection with crosswalks. They stopped midway

across the road, in a turning lane they hoped would offer the protection of a (nonexistent) median. Resuming their crossing, and assuming safety, Walker's four-year-old daughter was fatally struck by a car.

- *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Nov. 18, 2008: <http://tinyurl.com/58ggvb>

## **October 2008**

### **Jacqueline Robinson**

Royal Oak, MI | According to a report in the *Detroit Free Press*, Jacqueline Robinson, a single mother of two from Detroit, MI, was fatally struck by a car while biking to work. She depended on her bicycle for mobility, as do many in the area, and her 13-mile route to work brought her along a multilane road with a speed limit of 45 mph. The street was not designed with bicyclists in mind and, despite the relatively low traffic at the time of her commute, could not provide her a safe space to bike. The *Daily Tribune* reports residents of the City of Royal Oak, where Ms. Robinson died, have banded together to request the City Commission adopt a complete streets plan. At Monday's City Commission meeting, residents pointed out the long-term savings of multi-modal transportation and the urgent need to curb pedestrian and bicyclist crashes on its streets. According to the *Royal Oak Mirror*, Mayor Jim Ellison and the City Commissioners were impressed with the presentation and have asked advocates to form a task group and draft a non-motorized plan for the City.

- *Detroit Free Press*, Sept. 30, 2008: <http://tinyurl.com/3qxldq>

- *Oakland County Daily Tribune*, Nov. 9, 2008: <http://tinyurl.com/67xzqq>

## **September 2008**

### **Patrick Thomas**

### **Jimmy Nisser**

### **Paul Lusk**

Baton Rouge, LA | Seven pedestrians were killed in the Parish in 2008. Among those was Army veteran and Eagle Scout Patrick Thomas, who did not drive. While trying to cross six lanes of traffic afoot on September 22, he was fatally struck by a car. A 2008 audit of the city-parish's Department of Public Works specifically recommended the adoption and implementation of complete streets. Public Works Director Pete Newkirk responded that accommodation of bicyclists and pedestrians was too costly and a secondary concern to moving cars. In an opinion piece published in *The Advocate*, resident Doug Moore questioned Newkirk's reasoning. "[Newkirk's] reluctance to consider forward-looking, unconventional approaches to urban planning is extremely troubling," says Moore, who believes complete streets are an absolute necessity in making Baton Rouge a 21<sup>st</sup> century city.

- *The Advocate*, Dec. 23, 2008: <http://tinyurl.com/ybqp8fu>

- *The Advocate*, Dec. 27, 2008: <http://tinyurl.com/7w4n3j>

Minneapolis, MN | Jimmy Nisser, 65, did not drive due to his cerebral palsy. Instead, he kept a fleet of bicycles in his garage and biked to work and church in warmer weather. In the

winter, he'd walk instead. Despite his age and medical condition, he remained an active and loved member of his community. Early morning in September, with helmet on, he was moments from reaching his workplace when a car fatally struck him from behind. The busy four-lane road where he was killed has no sidewalk, and is not marked for bicyclists and motorists to safely share the road.

- *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, Sept 11, 2008: <http://tinyurl.com/6e7bnq>

Sugar City, ID | Paul Lusk, 45, of Sugar City, was killed while walking on the side of a road that does not have a sidewalk.

- *The Rexburg Standard Journal*, Sept. 26, 2008: <http://tinyurl.com/5zk7t8>

### **August 2008**

**Assam Naveed**

**Kelay Smith**

**Derrick R. "Mooky" Jones**

Queens, NY | A ten-year-old cyclist, caught at a narrow median, in was struck by a car while trying to navigate toward the opposite curb. The boy underwent extensive surgery for massive head wounds. The New York Daily News story quotes community members who note the treacherously wide intersection, which has been the site of several crashes in recent years.

-*New York Daily News*, Aug. 25, 2008: <http://tinyurl.com/6kefze>

District Heights, MD | A third fatal crash this year along a road in a Maryland suburb of DC is leading to calls for sidewalks. Derrick "Mooky" Jones and an unrelated pregnant woman, Kelay Smith, had just gotten off a bus in suburban Prince George's County, Maryland and were struck and killed as they walked down the shoulder. The Washington Post story features the words of the victims' families, police, and traffic engineers.

- *Washington Post*, Aug. 14, 2008: <http://tinyurl.com/6dntmq>