

Mr. Scot Wrighton, City Manager
201 South Franklin
Kirksville, MO 63501

24 July 1996

Re: Proposed crosswalks in the vicinity of Truman University

Dear Mr. Wrighton:

The new crosswalk paint at Franklin & Normal and Florence & Patterson looks great. Thank you. And I appreciate your recent phone message advising me that the crosswalks discussed last spring are 'on order' and should be painted before the students return in August.

I do not have in front of me the plan agreed to by you and the student group in April, nor, of course, is anybody bound to anything anyway--except perhaps to the concept that painted crosswalks around campus is a good idea.

Based only on my poor memory, however, I would like to recapitulate the following suggestions agreed to last April:

1. Change the Franklin Street pedestrian crosswalk light between Centennial & the Bookstore from a stoplight to a flashing yellow, and erect signs warning to "Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalk."
2. The same regarding the pedestrian light on Patterson.
3. A painted crosswalk across Franklin (Business 63) between Barnett and the Red Barn Park trail, with signs warning motorists to "Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalk." A flashing yellow light was also recommended here. (Did you know that state law requires that crosswalks which are paved over be repainted immediately? This particular crosswalk was obliterated over a year ago--as were several others around campus).
4. The intersection of Patterson & Franklin.

5. A painted crosswalk across Patterson connecting two halves of a beautifully constructed brick sidewalk, where the university has been inviting students to cross, unprotected from vehicular traffic, for over a year. (This just east of Hardman, the military science building).

6. As I know you are aware, but just for the record, the existing crosswalk crossing Patterson just west of Violette Hall needs paint.

7. The intersection of Davis & Normal.

Also, may I respectfully suggest a couple of those "Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalk" signs on Franklin at the intersection of Normal? Vehicular traffic--drivers--still do not grasp the concept of pedestrian right-of-way.

The following locations were not agreed to, to the best of my memory, but I mention them here for your consideration: Franklin & Randolph, Normal & Florence, Normal & Mulanix, Normal & High, Normal & Marion. Personally, I do not share the opinion of some that 'too many crosswalks encourage motorists to ignore them'--what could be worse than the attitude of most motorists zipping around campus now? Nor do I agree with those who feel that these drivers cannot be slowed to somewhere in the vicinity of the posted 20 mph speed limit. I served in law enforcement some years ago, so I can report to you first hand the remarkable public enlightenment that a pen, a ticket book and a radar gun can encourage.

Thank you again for your cooperation on this matter and your willingness to work with my students last spring.

Sincerely yours,

Gary H. Jones
Assistant Professor of Communication

cc: Heinz Woehlk, Head, Division of Language & Literature
Jack Magruder, President
David Pingel, Kirksville Chief of Police
Lisa Sprague, Director, Public Safety