

## Hess, Raymond

---

**From:** City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission  
**Subject:** FW: Pedestrian "walk" lights requiring pressing beg button  
**Attachments:** PXL\_20220901\_210208753.MP.jpg

---

**From:** Erich Zechar <XXXXXXXXXX >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 2, 2022 8:38 PM  
**To:** City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@a2gov.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Pedestrian "walk" lights requiring pressing beg button

Forgot to attach the photo.

I arrived at the attached intersection and tested to see if I would get a pedestrian light without pressing the beg button. As you can see, the car traffic gets a light but the pedestrians don't.

If I pressed the button at this point I would have to wait a complete light cycle to get a "walk" light.

Erich

On Fri, Sep 2, 2022, 8:32 PM Erich Zechar <XXXXXXXXXX > wrote:

Good evening transportation commission.

On two of my frequent biking and walking routes - along Plymouth Road and Huron Parkway - the pedestrian signal does not change with the traffic signals.

The light instead remains "don't walk" indefinitely unless someone presses the "beg button."

I have flagged two such intersections - Huron Parkway and Geddes, and Huron Pkwy and Hubbard. City staff acknowledged the report, and closed the issue without comment, and without fixing the issue. <https://seeclickfix.com/issues/13165930> and <https://seeclickfix.com/issues/13165946>

I ask you to direct staff to ensure any city-controlled pedestrian intersections have indicators which cycle in coordination with the vehicle lights. We would not accept vehicle traffic lights that remain red at all times to all traffic flow unless a driver pressed a button and waited a few minutes. We should not accept the situation for pedestrians either.

The current situation creates danger when arriving to the light mid-cycle, as there is no flashing "don't walk" signal to indicate whether the light will change soon, and it's also very tempting for pedestrians who arrive to the intersection while parallel traffic has a green light to cross immediately despite a "don't walk" signal, rather than push the button and wait until another light cycle completes. It makes no sense at all to tell a pedestrian "you must not walk unless you first press this button and wait many minutes, even if it would normally be safe to cross when you arrive at the intersection."

Beg buttons could be useful - it could shorten a "don't walk" signal time for pedestrians, or better yet it could ensure a longer "walk" signal for those who take longer to cross large intersections.

Please address this.

Thanks

Erich Zechar