

**Resolution to Enhance Safety at the RRFB Crosswalk
at Huron High School
Approved by the Ann Arbor Commission on Disability Issues
March 9, 2016**

Memorandum

The mid-block crosswalk on Huron Parkway north of Fuller and across from Huron High School is scheduled to receive a flashing yellow RRFB (rectangular rapid flashing beacon). An RRFB for this crosswalk is not an optimum accessible solution for ensuring the highest level of safety. Despite being the crosswalk that Huron High School students use, it is not marked as an official school zone. The often abused 45 mph speed limit, coupled with four lanes, an extra wide grassy median, and congested traffic during start of school and end of school hours, makes this crosswalk particularly dangerous for current and future students, and other pedestrians, who are blind and/or visually impaired, wheelchair users and those who use other mobility devices (including but not limited to guide dogs, canes, walkers, braces).

It is the belief of the Commission on Disability Issues (CODI) that the flashing yellow lights on a RRFB system will not guarantee cars will stop as required. People who are blind and/or visually impaired rely on audio cues from cars passing by to know when it is safe to cross. The RRFB system artificially alters traffic patterns and removes the consistency and predictability of audible traffic patterns that would otherwise provide necessary cues for safe navigation.

Resolution

Whereas, The purpose of the Ann Arbor Commission on Disability Issues is to:

- a) Promote equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities;
- b) Strive to enable full participation in all aspects of community life for persons with disabilities;

c) Provide disability-related technical assistance, information, referral and advocacy to City Council personnel, the community, individuals and groups;

Whereas, The Ann Arbor Commission on Disability Issues is authorized to coordinate and provide recommendations to City personnel, citizens commissions, authorities, and committees; and community individuals and groups serving on annually designated programs to respond to identified service needs;

RESOLVED, That because the pedestrian safety needs of Huron High School students and community members with disabilities warrant immediate improvements to the current crosswalk, the Ann Arbor Commission on Disability Issues recommends that City Council direct the City Administrator to install the following safety features in addition to the RRFB:

1. Officially identify this as a School Zone and install signage that includes flashing lights that display the speed at which cars are traveling while in the school zone.
2. Installation of rumble strips on the lanes that are at a safe distance from the crosswalk to provide a distinct audible cue that cars are approaching.
3. Installation of an additional audible cue to indicate when the crossing cycle has ended.
4. Community-wide education to inform both driver and pedestrian of their responsibilities at RRFB crossings.
5. Increased police enforcement at RRFB crossings.