

AGENDA: TSC 6/2/14

ITEM NO. 2: Consider request to mark and sign a CROSSWALK across the south leg of the intersection of 18th Street & Naismith Drive.

Staff Report:

1. Inasmuch as there are paved sidewalks and sidewalk ramps on both sides of Naismith, this location is classified as an "un-marked crosswalk" by state law.
2. A nation-wide study of pedestrian crash rates at this type of location (raised median, $\leq 15,000$ ADT, and 3-8 lanes) found no significant difference in crash rates at marked crosswalks when compared to unmarked crosswalks.
3. If the request is approved, it is recommended that the University of Kansas be responsible for the installation and maintenance of the appropriate traffic control signs and markings.

MINUTES: TSC 6/2/14

ITEM NO. 2:

Consider request to mark and sign a CROSSWALK across the south leg of the intersection of 18th Street & Naismith Drive.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

Paul Graves, Deputy Director of Design & Construction Management, University of Kansas: A student was recently struck at this location and requested that the University pursue a marked crossing; the residence hall to the west houses over 500 students and the designated bus stop is on the east side of the street, as well as the student recreation center; we have reason to believe that there is a large number of students crossing at this location; we respectfully that the crossing be marked.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS BE PERMITTED TO MARK AND SIGN A CROSSWALK ACROSS THE SOUTH LEG OF THE INTERSECTION OF 18TH STREET & NAISMITH DRIVE; THE MOTION CARRIED, 8-0.

David Woosley

From: Graves, Paul <pgraves@ku.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:05 AM
To: David Woosley
Cc: Charles Soules
Subject: Request for crosswalk at Naismith & 18th
Attachments: Naismith & 18th crosswalk request.jpg

Chairperson and Members of the Lawrence Traffic Safety Commission:

On behalf of the University of Kansas, I respectfully request your favorable consideration of our proposal to install a signed and marked crosswalk on the south leg of the intersection of Naismith Drive & W. 18th Street. I've attached a sketch of the proposal.

On February 26, 2014, I received a request for this crosswalk from a student who had been struck by a vehicle that day while she was crossing from Oliver Residence Hall on the west to a bus stop near the northeast corner of Naismith Hall (a private residence hall) on the east. Fortunately, the student said she was not badly injured.

We believe this proposed crosswalk is justified for the following reasons:

- High volumes of pedestrians cross at this location between Oliver Residence Hall and points east including the aforementioned bus stop, a large parking lot on the northeast corner of this intersection, the student recreation center at the northeast corner of 18th & Missouri, etc. The 2012 Lawrence Bike Count tallied averages of 849 bicycle and pedestrian trips in this block daily (over 25,000 monthly and over 300,000 annually); it did not indicate how many cross at this location but we anticipate it would be a significant percentage.
- There has been at least the aforementioned recent vehicle-pedestrian accident, and likely a history of other pedestrian crossing accidents at this location. If it would be helpful for the commission's consideration, I'd respectfully request David Woosley to provide accident data for this intersection.
- While there are already marked crosswalks mid-block on Naismith Drive between 19th and 18th Streets, and across Naismith at 19th, those crosswalks are not on a direct route between Oliver Residence Hall and points east, and pedestrians ordinarily do not go out of their way to use a marked crosswalk a half-block or whole-block away, which in this case would add at least one block of walking distance if pedestrians self-diverted to the mid-block crossing.
- The east and west approaches to the intersection of Naismith & 18th are stop-controlled, while vehicular traffic on Naismith Drive is not stop or yield controlled at this intersection, increasing the risk for pedestrians crossing Naismith.
- The east and west approaches to this intersection are two lanes wide, while Naismith Drive is four lanes wide with a narrow median, again increasing the risk for pedestrians crossing Naismith.
- While we know that a marked crosswalk does not actively prevent a distracted driver from not stopping, and a marked crosswalk might cause some pedestrians to have a false sense of security, we think that in most cases signing and marking the requested crosswalk will alert many more drivers to be more cautious in this area thus significantly improving pedestrian safety.

If the crosswalk is approved, KU will sign and mark it at no cost to the City – unless the City prefers to install it.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Paul Graves, P.E., Deputy Director
The University of Kansas | Office of Design & Construction Management
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Pedestrian crossing sign

Primary east-west pedestrian route



Pedestrian crossing



Bus Stop



W. 18th Street

Oliver Residence Hall

Pedestrian crossing signs

Naismith Drive

Naismith Hall (privately owned)

Arkansas St



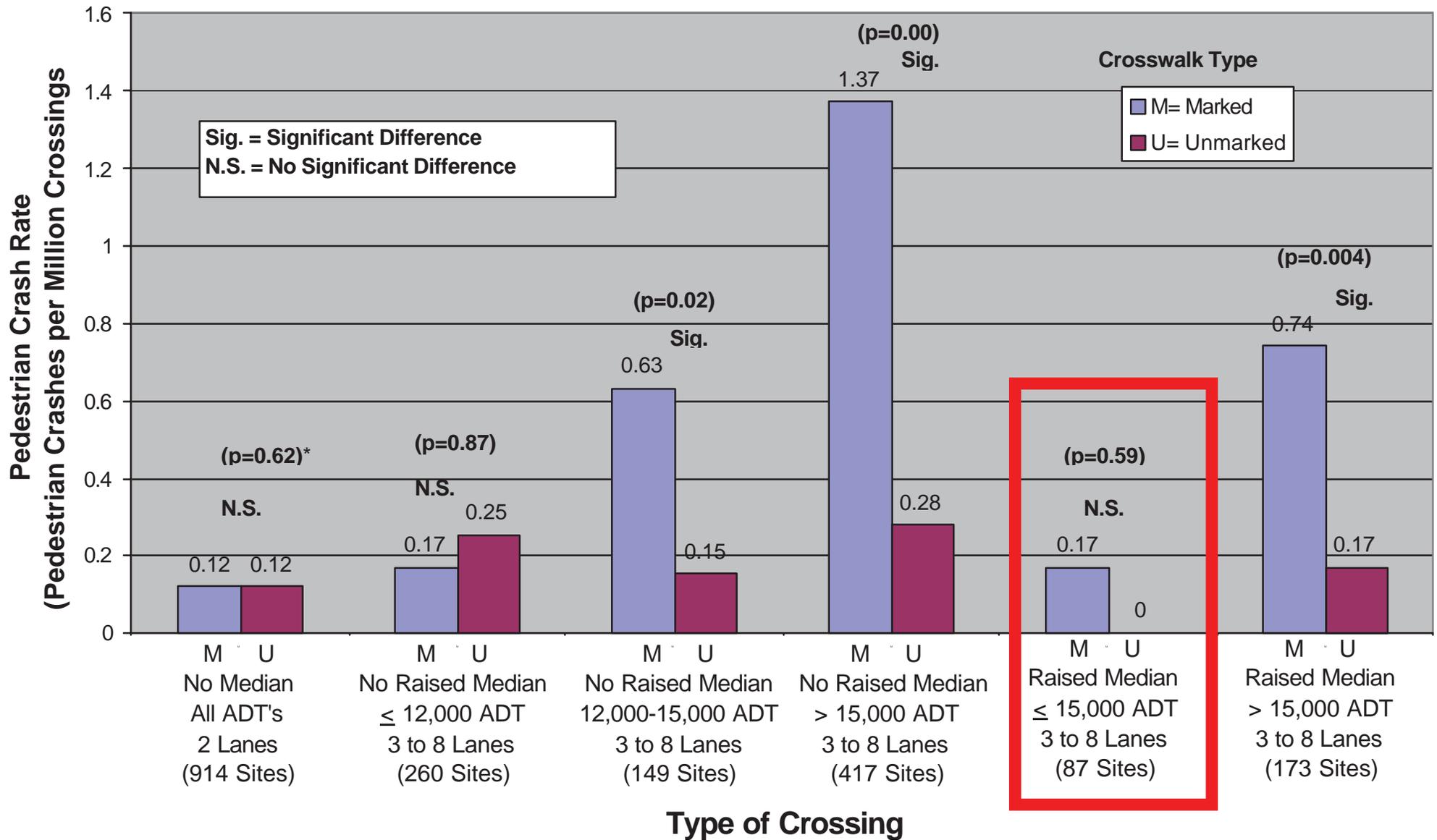


Figure 4. Pedestrian crash rate vs. type of crossing.



Naismith Dr

Naismith Dr

W 18th St

W 19th St

Arkansas St