

Stephen Chaung
104 Lancaster Rd
Arlington, MA 02476

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Dear Arlington Select Board Members:

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my road and pedestrian safety concerns. I am writing to you to describe a motor vehicle accident I was recently involved in and seeking solutions to make Appleton St become a safer road for all.

On November 16, 2020, I was involved in an unfortunate motor vehicle accident in the intersection of Wollaston Ave and Appleton St and was near my residence. Prior to the accident, my vehicle was at a full stop at the stop sign closest to the residence of 181 Wollaston Ave. With the best of my ability to foresee any oncoming vehicles on my left (which is extremely difficult due to the very sharp blind road curve near 331 Appleton St) and on my right (which is also difficult due to the obstructed view caused by multiple tall shrubs near 351 Appleton St), I looked left and right several times to determine if it was safe to cross the intersection and continue driving onto the other side of Wollaston Ave. As I had thought it was safe to proceed, my vehicle resulted in striking another vehicle who was excessively speeding on Appleton St. An on-record witness and resident of Arlington observed that the other driver was speeding at approximately 35mph. In the past, this exact same area had a 20mph speed limit sign posted near 331 Appleton St at least until October 2017 (see Google Maps street view).

Today, in areas on Appleton St that lead up to this specific dangerous intersection, there are multiple signs indicating the unusual intersection road diagram as well as warning drivers on Appleton St of a "dangerous intersection" and a "pedestrian crosswalk ahead". Although these signs are informative, I feel strongly that it is not enough of a deterrent for a driver to reduce their vehicle speed when approaching this area. According to the Arlington Police Records Department below, they found the following reported accidents that have occurred in this particular dangerous intersection.

Attached are the crashes at this location (Appleton/Wollaston/Virginia) for the past 5 years (2016-2020):

Crash #	Date/Time	Street/Road Name
20019566	11/16/2020 12:21	ACC W/INJURY
20003042	2/11/2020 17:14	ACC W/O INJURY
18025400	10/31/2018 7:24	ACC W/O INJURY
17025108	10/9/2017 8:46	ACC W/O INJURY
17020517	8/19/2017 11:38	ACC W/O INJURY
16003362	2/12/2016 17:57	ACC W/O INJURY

Every day, I fear that drivers who attempt to cross Appleton St from the side of 181 Wollaston Ave may potentially get into a serious vehicle accident similar to mine or god forbid, accidentally strike pedestrians in this neighborhood who commonly walk to the nearby Dallin Elementary School. Ever since the day of the accident and to minimize the risk of being involved in the same type of accident, I had discontinued taking this specific route and recommended to other Arlington neighbors to not cross Appleton from the side of 181 Wollaston Ave. As a safer workaround, I presently take an alternate route and drive through the nearby and smaller Ortona St. From there, I am able to safely take a left turn onto Appleton St and eventually take a right turn to get onto the opposite side of Wollaston Ave.

After describing my involvement in the accident and my concerns, my request is due to the unusual and very difficult intersection layout, would it be possible to consider implementing a traffic stop sign on both sides near 331 Appleton St and 352 Appleton St? Because of this, I understand that it would make it a 5-way traffic stop sign intersection rather than the current 3 streets that have a stop sign (Virginia Rd and 2 opposite sides of Wollaston Ave). This would give much better visibility and greater confidence from drivers approaching the stop sign on 181 Wollaston Ave. They would be able to clearly see vehicles fully stopped or coming to a stop from the 2 opposite sides of Appleton St and be able to make a more calculated and safer judgement to proceed in crossing the intersection. If for any reason it is not possible to implement such a suggested safety measure, could the Massachusetts Department of Transportation investigate this road safety concern further and implement additional and recommended safety traffic flow measures in this specific area?

I appreciate anything that can be done to help make this particular dangerous intersection on Appleton St become a more safer area for the surrounding community as well as have drivers continue to respect the 25mph thickly settled speed limit rule on Appleton St rather than commonly violating it.

Thank you again for your time, your consideration, and all that you do for the Arlington community.

Respectfully,



Stephen Chaung