



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

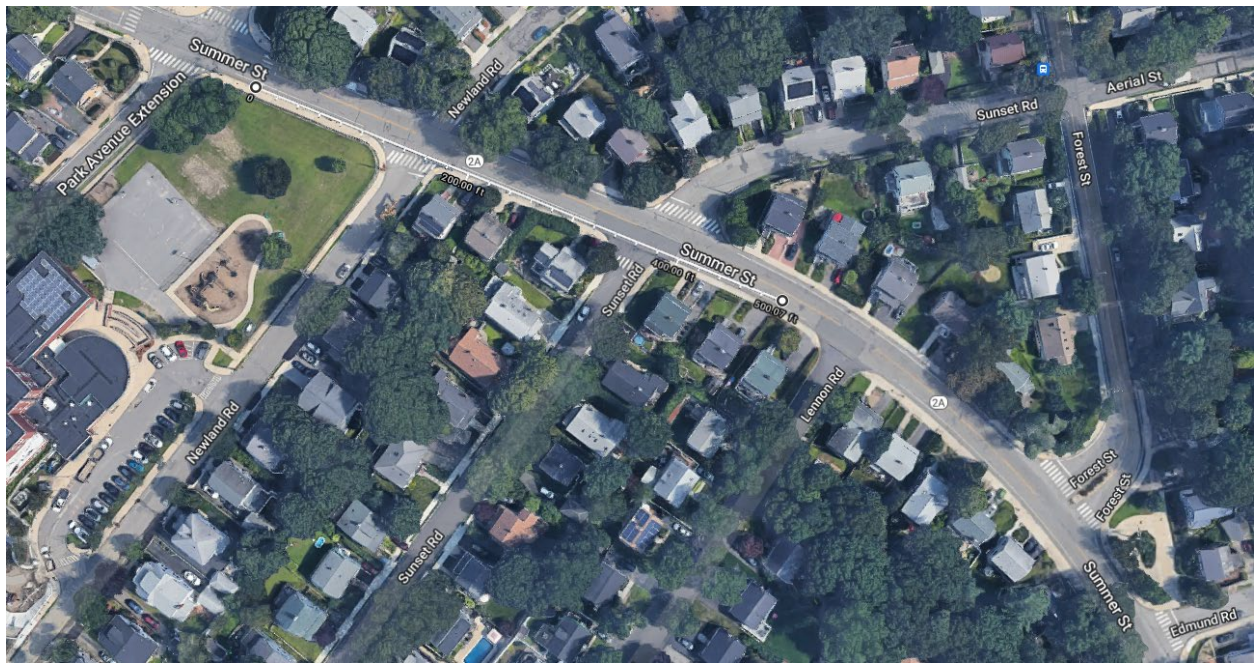
Arlington Planning Department, 730 Mass Ave,
Arlington MA, c/o Daniel Amstutz.

Date: October 20, 2022
From: Ray Jones and Shoji Takahashi
To: Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
Subject: Request for Crosswalk Across Summer St at Newland Rd for Peirce Elementary School.

Memorandum

Background. On September 28, 2021, the Select Board referred a request from residents on Sunset Road near Peirce Elementary School for a crosswalk across Summer St at Newland Rd. The residents have two young children attending Peirce Elementary School.

A crosswalk at Newland Rd would be less than 200' from the traffic signal at Park Ave Ext, and would not meet the TAC Marked Crosswalk Guideline (January 8, 2019) of a minimum of 200' between an uncontrolled crosswalk and a signalized intersection. A crosswalk at Sunset Rd is a viable alternative location for pedestrians to cross Summer St.



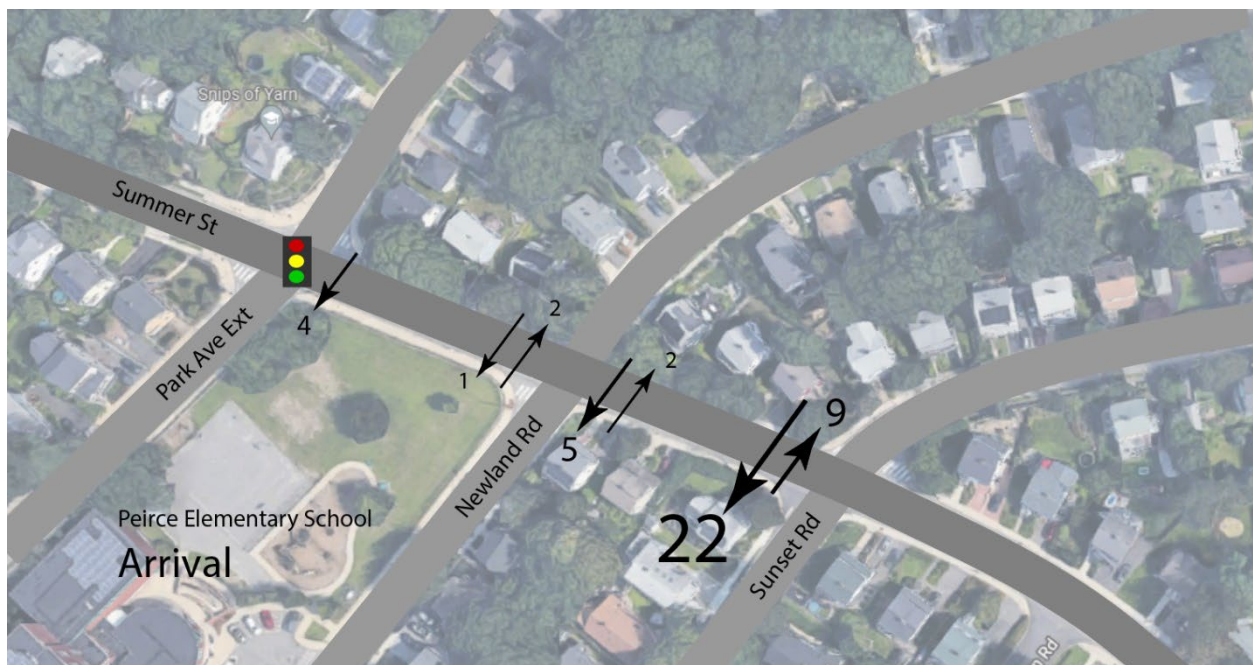
Existing Conditions. Summer St (Route 2A) near Peirce School is a two-lane road with a double-yellow center line and striped shoulders. The speed limit is 25 mph, and there are sidewalks on both sides of the road. Summer St adjacent to the school grounds (between Newland Rd and Park Ave Ext) is not marked as a designated school zone. The school grounds in this location are separated from the sidewalk with a chain-link fence atop a shoulder-high retaining wall.

There are no stop signs and no marked crosswalks across Summer St on the approximately quarter-mile section between traffic signals at Park Ave Ext and Forest St¹. There are marked crosswalks at the signalized intersections.

Summer St is straight without visual obstructions from before Park Ave Ext on the west to about Lennon Rd on the east where it begins to curve rightward traveling eastbound. Eastbound drivers can see the Sunset Rd intersection from a distance of more than 400'. Westbound drivers can see the Sunset Rd intersection from a distance of more than 350'.

Observed Pedestrian Movements During Peirce Arrival. TAC members observed Peirce School arrival on Friday, November 5, 2021, from 7:45 – 8:20am. The weather was clear and sunny with temperatures in the mid-30s F. Pedestrians crossing Summer St included students, guardians, dog walkers, and people on bicycles. Students were observed alone, with other students, and with adults.

Pedestrians crossed Summer St along the corridor between Newland Rd and Sunset Rd, including midblock crossings. (Many pedestrians crossed Summer St at the signalized intersection at Park Ave Ext. We did not record those arriving to the school from the north or west.)



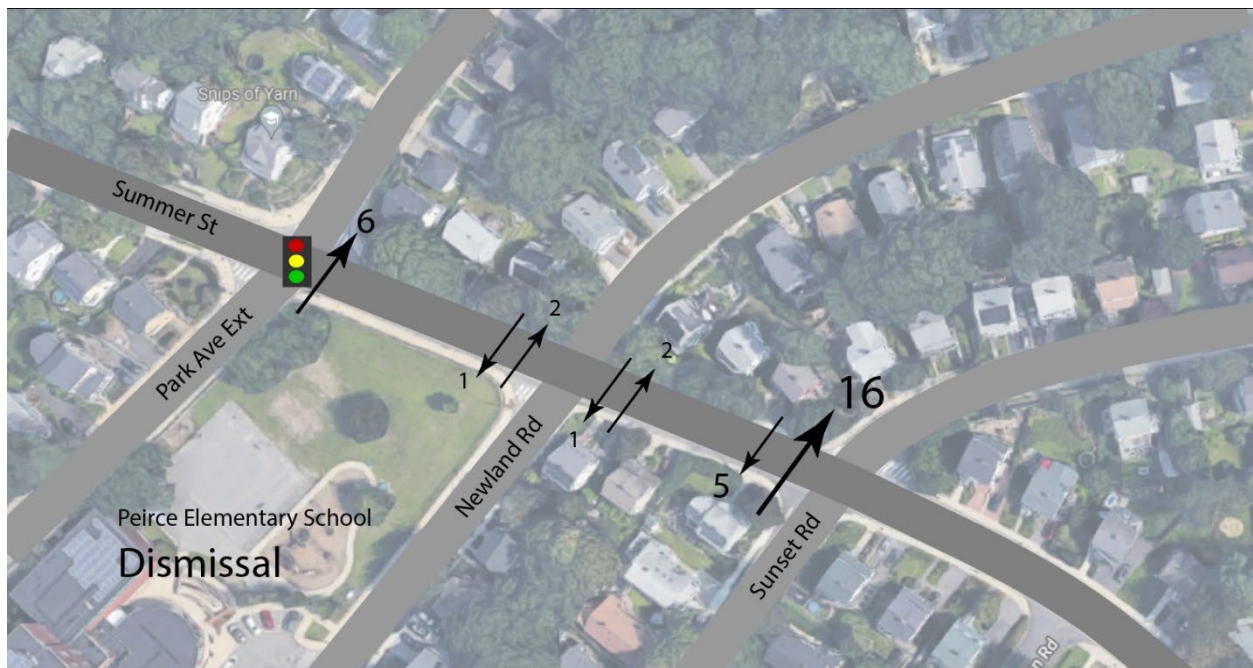
¹ The Forest St. signalized intersection is approximately 400' southeast of Forest St Northbound.

During the 35-min observation period, there were 31 pedestrians crossing Summer St near the Sunset Rd intersection; and 10 pedestrians crossing at Newland Rd. Four pedestrians walked west along Summer St and crossed at the Park Ave Ext crosswalk.

Observed Pedestrian Movements During Peirce Dismissal. TAC members observed Peirce School dismissal on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, from 2:30 – 2:45pm. The weather was clear and sunny with temperatures in the high-40s F. The pedestrian composition was similar to the arrival period described above.

Pedestrians crossed Summer St along the corridor between Newland Rd and Sunset Rd, including midblock crossings. (Many pedestrians crossed Summer St at the signalized intersection at Park Ave Ext. Pedestrians moving away from the school to the north or west were not recorded.)

During the 15-min observation period, there were 21 pedestrian crossings across Summer St near the Sunset Rd intersection; and 6 pedestrian crossings at Newland Rd. Six pedestrians crossed at the Park Ave Ext crosswalk and then walked east along Summer St.



Analysis & Recommendations. There are no marked crosswalks across Summer St between traffic signals at Park Ave Ext and Forest St. However, MassDOT's "Municipal Resource Guide for Walkability (2019)" advises "Crosswalks should be spaced **200' to 300'** apart in developed areas, though up to **500'** is acceptable. It is a best practice to provide a crosswalk on all legs of a signalized intersection [emphasis in original]"²

The residents writing to the Select Board requested a crosswalk at Summer St and Newland Rd, which is just less than 200' from the signalized intersection of Park Ave Ext. As an

² see pps 16-17. https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/06/13/2019_Municipal_Resources_Guide-Walkability_0.pdf

alternative, TAC recommends installing a marked crosswalk across Summer St at the west side of Sunset Rd.

Possible placement of the crosswalk is just to the west of the utility pole and fire hydrant (on the southside), and between the driveway curb cuts of houses 537 Summer St and 541 Summer St (on the northside). This location offers the shortest crossing distance and avoids possible challenges with driveway curb cuts and storm drains located closer to the intersection of Sunset Rd.



1Left: view of southside Summer St between 534 and 538 Summer St. Right: view of northside Summer St between driveway curb cuts of 537 and 541 Summer St.

This recommendation for a marked crosswalk is consistent with the following TAC Crosswalk Guidelines:

- An uncontrolled crosswalk should not be placed within 200' of a crosswalk that is controlled by a traffic signal.
- "A higher priority should be given to locations having a minimum of 20 pedestrian crossing per peak hour (or 15 elderly and/or children).
- The Guidelines state: "Visibility: the pedestrian in the crosswalk needs to be visible from far enough away so that a driver has time to react and stop. For vehicle speeds of 20, 25, 30 and 35 mph, the minimum recommended sight distances are 115, 155, 200 and 250 feet, respectively (MassHighway (now MassDOT) 2006). **The 85th percentile speed or posted speed, whichever is higher, should be used for determining sight distance.** [emphasis in original]"

The speed limit at this location is the Town wide default of 25 mph, and the minimum recommended stopping sight distance for 25 mph is 155'. On the conservative side, if the 85th-percentile speed at this location is 35 mph, the minimum recommended sight distance is 250'. The Sunset Rd intersection can be seen from a distance of more than 400' for eastbound drivers and more than 350' for westbound drivers.



2Left: Summer St looking west from Forest St. Right: View magnified with purple oval showing the Sunset Rd intersection. The white picket fence is 529 Summer St, on the eastside of Sunset Rd; the brown fence and red house is on the west side of Sunset Rd.

Notably, Principal Andrew Ahmadi of Peirce School requested an Arrival and Dismissal Audit by MassDOT's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program. Judy Crocker of SRTS agreed with the recommendations for an additional crosswalk across Summer St near Sunset Rd, which is endorsed by Principal Ahmadi.

As part of installing a crosswalk at Sunset Rd, the Town should install crosswalk signs and advance warning signs in both directions.

The Town also should consider the following:

1. Adding a Traffic Supervisor to assist in crossing Summer St at Sunset Rd.
2. Designating no parking within 20' before the crosswalk per the Guidelines. However, automobiles generally do not park on the shoulder of this stretch of Summer St.



Shoji Takahashi <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>

Crosswalk at Sunset, across Summer, near Peirce School

1 message

Megan Callahan <megan_callahan@hotmail.com>

Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 9:57 AM

To: "shoji.takahashi@gmail.com" <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>

Cc: Stan Jurga <sjurga@gmail.com>

Hello Mr. Takahashi

Paul Easton and Aura Obando forwarded your message about a possible crosswalk at this location to me.

We live at 167 Forest St, and currently must cross both Forest (which is a "fast" street) and Summer to get to school.

Because we don't have cross walks at either street close to our home, we are still walking our 3rd and 5th grade children to school, even though I feel they are mature and could walk a safer route alone.

We do allow our 5th grader to walk home alone, but we have her cross at the Park Ave Extension crosswalk. This still makes me nervous because so many people run this light (but that's another story).

A cross walk at Sunset/Summer would really improve the safety of our walk, and the many children and families in our neighborhood. We would be happy to write a letter or comment at a meeting to support this.

Thank you so much!

Megan Callahan

Stan Jurga

167 Forest St.



Shoji Takahashi <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>

Crosswalk on Sunset/Summer street.

1 message

Rachel Chiang <rachelchiang39@gmail.com>
To: shoji.takahashi@gmail.com

Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 9:59 AM

Hi Shoji,
I second Paul and Aura's request for a crosswalk for kids to get to school on the other side of Summer street. There are lots of kids who live up the hill on Aerial alone, who would benefit.
thanks,
Rachel
--
Rachel Chiang

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Shoji Takahashi <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>
To: "eastonpaul@yahoo.com" <eastonpaul@yahoo.com>; "aura.obando@gmail.com" <aura.obando@gmail.com>
Cc: Thouis (Ray) Jones <thouis@gmail.com>; Laura Swan <laura.swan.tac@gmail.com>; Daniel Amstutz <damstutz@town.arlington.ma.us>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 05:47:23 PM EST
Subject: request for crosswalk Summer St near Peirce Elementary School

Dear Paul Easton and Aura Obando:

I volunteer with the Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and am contacting you about your email dated September 11, 2021, to the Select Board and TAC regarding a crosswalk across Summer St at Newland Rd for Peirce Elementary School.

Last week (January 12, 2022), we had a TAC Meeting and discussed observations and assessment of the location. The draft memo is available on the Town website:

<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/59420/637775847574330000>

In brief, we confirmed and quantified your observations about the number of people crossing Summer St during arrival and dismissal at the school. Based on measurements and guidelines, locating a crosswalk at Newland Rd is problematic due to its proximity to the traffic signal at Park Ave Ext.

However, as there are many people crossing near Sunset St, we think a crosswalk near Sunset St and Summer St would be useful. We also will be considering crosswalk enhancements such as flashing pedestrian beacons and curb extensions to create a safer crossing location.

As you and your neighbors have direct experience and knowledge of this location, I would like to receive your and their feedback. (We are separately reaching out to the Peirce School for other parents/guardians comments.)

Please let me know your thoughts, and feel free to send this email to your neighbors. I would be happy to discuss it with them, too.

Sincerely yours,
Shoji Takahashi



Shoji Takahashi <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>

Support for Summer St. Crosswalk

1 message

Jeremy Clyman <clymanj@gmail.com>
To: shoji.takahashi@gmail.com

Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 12:09 PM

Hello -

I live at 529 Summer St. (corner of Summer St and Sunset Rd) and would very much SUPPORT and appreciate crosswalk development! I was alerted to this matter via neighbor Paul Easton.

Thanks very much! - Jeremy

Jeremy Clyman, Psy.D
Licensed Clinical Psychologist
www.drjeremyclyman.com
Email: clymanj@gmail.com
Cell: 201-207-4203



Shoji Takahashi <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>

Crosswalk at Summer and Sunset

1 message

Lilly Donohue <lillysmithworks@gmail.com>
To: shoji.takahashi@gmail.com

Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 4:23 PM

Hello,

I received a forward of your email regarding the consideration of a crosswalk at Sunset and Summer near Peirce school. I live at 553 Summer and definitely support the need for this crosswalk. Many people and children cross the street near Newland daily and additionally I am very concerned about the constant disregard of the speed limit on Summer Street between Park Ave ext and Newland (especially during school arrival and dismissal... so many cars run the light at Park Ave and Summer and I have watched many many times as little kids run out and are nearly hit).

Thanks very much, Lilly Donohue

Sent from my iPhone



Shoji Takahashi <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>

Re: request for crosswalk Summer St near Peirce Elementary School

1 message

Maria Lissitsyna Bloom <lissitsyna@gmail.com>
To: shoji.takahashi@gmail.com

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 1:29 PM

Hi Shoji,

I have heard about this project from our neighbors. I am very excited for the proposed crosswalk.

I live with my family on Aerial street, just a block away from the Sunset / Summer intersection. We cross Summer at Sunset every day to take our daughter to Peirce elementary. We also cross at that location whenever we go to Arlington Heights center, for evening walks, to get to the bike path, etc. Based on my experience, a crosswalk at this location would get used often even outside of school arrival and dismissal hours. I would support installation of some kind of reflectors to make crossings in the dark safer.

Thank you for your help with this project!

Best,
Maria

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Shoji Takahashi <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>
To: "eastonpaul@yahoo.com" <eastonpaul@yahoo.com>; "aura.obando@gmail.com" <aura.obando@gmail.com>
Cc: Thouis (Ray) Jones <thouis@gmail.com>; Laura Swan <laura.swan.tac@gmail.com>; Daniel Amstutz <damstutz@town.arlington.ma.us>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 05:47:23 PM EST
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However, as there are many people crossing near Sunset St, we think a crosswalk near Sunset St and Summer St would be useful. We also will be considering crosswalk enhancements such as flashing pedestrian beacons and curb extensions to create a safer crossing location.

As you and your neighbors have direct experience and knowledge of this location, I would like to receive your and their feedback. (We are separately reaching out to the Peirce School for other parents/guardians comments.)

Please let me know your thoughts, and feel free to send this email to your neighbors. I would be happy to discuss it with them, too.

Sincerely yours,
Shoji Takahashi



Shoji Takahashi <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>

Crosswalk at Sunset and Summer

1 message

Jonathan <jonathan.hempel@gmail.com>
To: shoji.takahashi@gmail.com

Wed, Feb 9, 2022 at 6:46 AM

Hi Shoji,

I am writing to support the proposal for installing a crosswalk on Summer Street at Sunset, as was made aware to me by Paul Easton. I walk my kids to Peirce in the mornings and have no option to cross Summer besides going up to Park. So we almost always cross without a crosswalk.

Thanks so much,
Jonathan
519 Summer Street



Shoji Takahashi <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>

Cross walk at Summer and Sunset

1 message

goodrichbyers@gmail.com <goodrichbyers@gmail.com>
To: shoji.takahashi@gmail.com

Fri, Feb 11, 2022 at 9:14 AM

Hi,

I am a parent of a Peirce student and a Great Expectations student. I walk summer street between Park Ave and Forest Street at least twice a day every school day. I have been doing this for 4 years. My kids schools are on opposite sides of Summer street. This requires me to cross Summer street. The currently available crosswalks are insufficient.

I recently read the memo from Jan 11 from you and Ray Jones to the TAC. The plan laid out in the memo seems well studied and considered. The recommendations around a cross walk at Summer and Sunset would significant improve and increase the safety of my kids walk to/from school. Thank you for all your work. If community support will help push the cross walk through the town process please reach out. I am happy to help.

Kate Byers

Sent from my iPhone



Shoji Takahashi <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>

Proposed Crosswalk at Summer and Sunset

1 message

Matthew Owen <matthewsowen@gmail.com>
To: shoji.takahashi@gmail.com

Wed, Feb 23, 2022 at 12:29 AM

Hi Shoji,

I live on Forest St. near Sunset St. and was interested when I heard about the potential crosswalk across Summer St. at the intersection with Sunset. I would absolutely support the addition of this crosswalk and would make use of it since this location is where I usually cross Summer St. at the moment. Under current conditions, I feel like jaywalking is encouraged by having such a long stretch of road without any designated crossings. Furthermore, given the high speed of some drivers along that stretch, I think it would be wise to take some additional measure(s) to either warn drivers of pedestrians in the crosswalk or to slow the traffic as it approaches that intersection. My main concern is with the westbound traffic, due to the curve in the road coming from Forest St.

Thank you for the work you have put into this!

Best,
Matthew Owen



Shoji Takahashi <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>

SRTS Arrival/Dismissal Observation

Crocker, Judy <judy.crocker@aecom.com>

Thu, Apr 7, 2022 at 8:29 AM

To: Shoji Takahashi <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>

Cc: Andrew Ahmadi <aahmadi@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Laura Swan <laura.swan.tac@gmail.com>, Daniel Amstutz <DAmstutz@town.arlington.ma.us>, Olivia Goodrich <ogoodrich@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dear Shoji,

Thank you for reaching out to discuss Peirce School pedestrian activity along Summer Street.

I recently completed an arrival dismissal observation at the school. While the report has not yet been completed or delivered to Mr. Ahmadi, Safe Routes fully agrees with the content of your memo and is going to recommend:

- Adding "SCHOOL ZONE AHEAD" signage on approach along Summer Street/Alpine Terrace and Summer/Sunset and on approach from Blossom/Sunset, Newland/Blossom, and Newland opposite the field. Because the school is nestled in a neighborhood, indications that a school is in the area are not apparent.

This becomes tricky for MA school zone distance is generally measured from the school's main entrance on Blossom, which ends along the fenced playground, excluding a good portion of the adjoining green space abutting Summer and Newland Streets. Currently only Park Ave Extension is signed a school zone.

An additional recommendation is to add Peirce School signage along the fence at the intersections of Park Ave Extension/Summer and Newland/Summer. A Summer Street driver is not readily aware that the fenced area high on the retaining wall is actually a school.

- Accommodating the family pedestrian traffic observed between Newland and Sunset. A number of family vehicles park on Newland and cross at Newland/Summer Street but even more families/student proceed down Summer St towards Sunset. Those traveling north and west along Summer use the pedestrian activated button at the intersection of Summer/Park Ave Extension.

Judy

Judith Crocker MBA | Statewide and Senior Outreach Coordinator

Massachusetts Safe Routes to School - A Program of MassDOT

One Federal Street, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02110

c: 781-454-6617 | t: 857.383.3816 | f: 857.368.0656

judy.crocker@aecom.com

www.mass.gov/safe-routes-to-school

[Quoted text hidden]



Shoji Takahashi <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>

cross walk and speed bump

1 message

Katie Noyes <katiemarienoyes@gmail.com>
To: shoji.takahashi@gmail.com

Sun, Sep 11, 2022 at 4:40 PM

Hello Shoji,
Great to meet you, I got your name from a recent block party we had here along Sunset Rd in Arlington Heights. I wanted to ask you about two different topics:

SUMMER STREET CROSSWALK:

I am supporting my neighbors by emailing to request the addition of a crosswalk across Summer Street, near the intersection of Sunset and Summer.

AERIAL STREET SPEED BUMP:

I also wanted to inquire about the feasibility of adding a speed bump along the hill on Aerial Street (the block that starts at Forest St. and ends at the dead-end). Multiple FedEx and Amazon delivery trucks fly up the hill every day going way too fast, and it's a very steep and blind hill where people in the road wouldn't be seen by a truck going too fast up the hill, until potentially too late. Do you know how I should go about inquiring about this possibility? Thanks!

Best,
Kathryn Noyes
15 Aerial Street



Shoji Takahashi <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>

Crosswalk

1 message

Rodriguez, LROD <lrodriguez1@fas.harvard.edu>
To: "shoji.takahashi@gmail.com" <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>

Sun, Sep 11, 2022 at 4:57 PM

Dear Shoji,

Regarding the crosswalk at sunset and summer, it would be such a wonderful addition given the interesting location of the school's entrances. My family is in support of this initiative.

134 Sunset Rd.

Thank you,
Laura Rodríguez



Shoji Takahashi <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>

Peirce School support for Summer St crosswalk at Sunset Rd

Andrew Ahmadi <aahmadi@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Fri, Oct 14, 2022 at 1:53 PM

To: Shoji Takahashi <shoji.takahashi@gmail.com>

Hi Shoji,

I am in support of the crosswalk and appreciate the work that you and the community members are doing.

Andrew

[Quoted text hidden]