

A-Game Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation

78-80 School Street, #80

Watertown, MA 02472

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September 24, 2024

Watertown Traffic Commission

552 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

RE: Pick-up and Drop-off Parking Space Sign for Medical Office Only.

To whom it may concern,

A-Game Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation medical office respectfully requests to install a single parking space sign, "Reserved for Medical Transportation pick-up and drop-off only between hours 8 am and 12 pm from Monday to Friday" in the front of the entrance door to the office.

Due to street congestion in the morning hours, it is challenging for our patients with disabilities who arrive by Medical Transportation Vehicles in the hours between 8am and 12pm to access our entrance. Our morning patients have limited mobility and uses walkers, canes, crutches, or wheelchairs, and without appropriate, safe, and immediate access to the entrance struggle to reach our front door.

Having a reserved space for Medical Transportation during the busiest points of the day would facilitate equitable access and safety for this patient population.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Oleg Mirsakov

A-Game Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Office Manager

80 School Street



Sampson, David

From: Sampson, David
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 7:36 AM
To: Nicole Gardner; 'Joshua Walker'
Subject: RE: Notes on Three Dangerous Intersections in East Watertown (District A)

Good morning Mr. Walker,

Please be advised that the Traffic Commission meeting will be held on October 30, 2024 at 1:30pm. The meeting will be held in the Administration Building, Council Chambers (149 Main Street). You are not required to attend the meeting, but I strongly encourage you to attend. It is helpful to be there in the event the Commission has any specific questions. Please let me know whether you plan to attend. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Sgt. D. Sampson

From: Sampson, David
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 12:32 PM
To: Nicole Gardner <ngardner@watertown-ma.gov>; Joshua Walker <jwalker@bbns.org>
Cc: Hanrahan, Justin <jhanrahan@police.watertown-ma.gov>
Subject: RE: Notes on Three Dangerous Intersections in East Watertown (District A)

Good morning Councilor and Mr. Walker,

I apologize for the long delay. Requests #1 (Arlington Street, No Parking Here to Corner) and #3 (No Right on Red Arsenal St E/B at Bond St) have been placed on the October 30, 2024 Traffic Commission agenda. The meeting will take place on October 30, 2024 at the Administration Building, 149 Main Street in the Council Chambers. The time of the meeting will be confirmed next Wednesday but it is leaning towards 1:30pm.

As a very brief bit of background on these items:

1. Arlington Street at Elm Street – The Zoning Department assessed the bushes and found no violations. They plan to call the company to see if they are willing to perhaps cut the bushes back further. The request to remove one parking space on Arlington Street is on the October meeting agenda.
2. Arlington Street at Nichols Ave - Councilor, you are correct about the pedestrian crossing programming on Arlington Street at Nichols Ave. Pedestrian signals are timed for each leg of the crossing; although some cyclists and pedestrians choose to cross diagonally, the design is intended for crosswalk use.
3. I agree that a good percentage of motorists likely do a poor job of stopping correctly before turning right onto Bond Street into the Arsenal Yards property. There isn't a right turn on red restriction at this location. The roadway was redesigned and recently repaved and restriped. The plans presented to the Traffic Commission in September, 2022 did not include a request for a No Right on Red Restriction at the Arsenal Yards entrance. I have placed this request on the Traffic Commission agenda for consideration.

Mr. Walker, please confirm that you received this email. Next week, I can confirm the time of the meeting and hopefully you will be able to attend and express your concerns.

Respectfully,
Sgt. D. Sampson

From: Nicole Gardner <ngardner@watertown-ma.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 7:50 PM
To: Joshua Walker <jwalker@bbns.org>; Sampson, David <dsampson@police.watertown-ma.gov>
Cc: Hanrahan, Justin <jhanrahan@police.watertown-ma.gov>
Subject: Re: Notes on Three Dangerous Intersections in East Watertown (District A)

Dear Joshua,

Thanks very much for reaching out on these safety concerns in the East End.

I am copying this note to Sgt Sampson, who heads our Traffic Division, and to Chief Hanrahan informationally as he chairs our Traffic Commission.

Sgt Sampson, could these concerns be brought before the Traffic Commission for consideration, particularly # 1 and # 3.

I know that for # 2, others have expressed concern over the intersection because they want to cross both streets in one trip, i.e. cross opposite corners, as shown by the yellow dots on the image below. If my memory serves, the intersection is not appropriate for that type of crossing, hence the crosswalks indicating that people should cross each street individually. Please correct me if I'm wrong about that, or please explain more fully.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing back. I'm unavailable the next couple of days other than by email, and available from Monday onward.

Best regards,

Nicole Gardner
she/her

Watertown District A Councilor
<https://nicoleforwatertown.com/>
617-835-4364

From: Joshua Walker <jwalker@bbns.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 11:36 AM
To: Nicole Gardner <ngardner@watertown-ma.gov>; nicoleforwatertown@gmail.com
<nicoleforwatertown@gmail.com>
Subject: Notes on Three Dangerous Intersections in East Watertown (District A)

Dear Councilor Nicole Gardner,,

I am one of your constituents, living at 11 Wheeler Court in Watertown (02472). I had the opportunity to meet you in person at my house two election cycles ago, and it has been my pleasure to vote for you in each election.

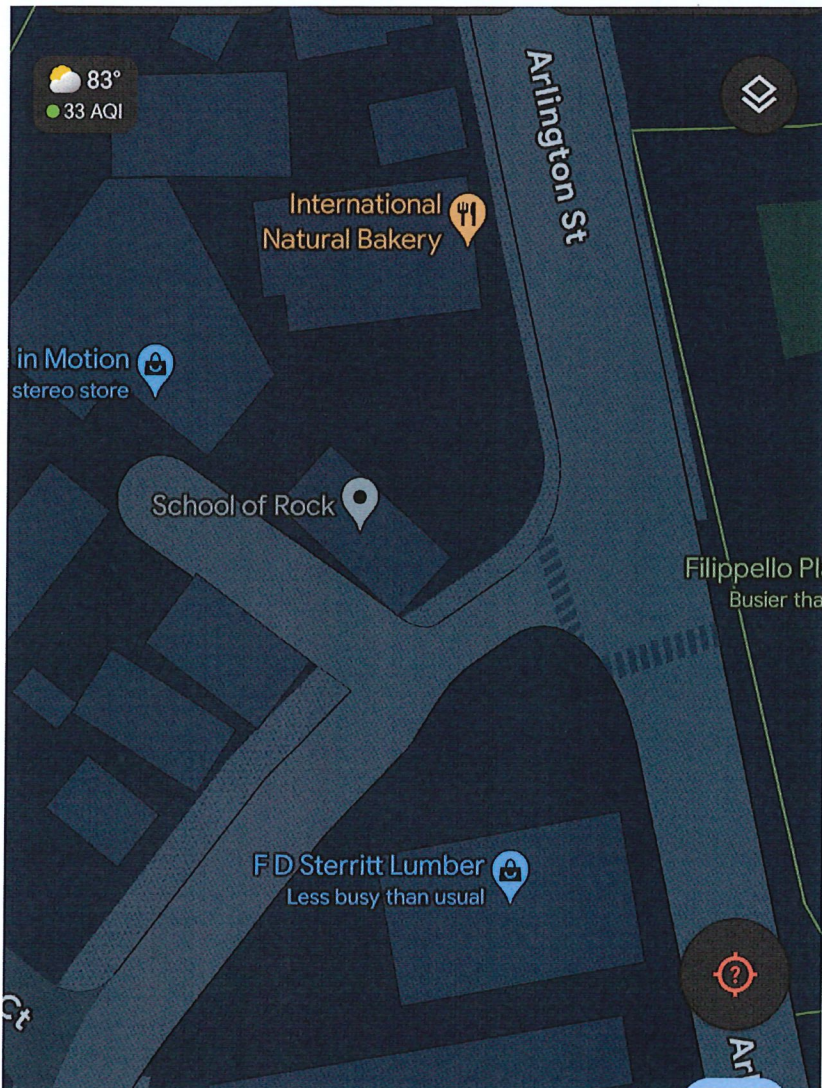
I am writing about three dangerous intersections in the District that I believe can be greatly aided by small fixes. This is in regards to the many articles and studies concluding that Boston roads have become more deadly and dangerous in the past five years (such as reported by the NYT
here: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/07/29/upshot/traffic-enforcement->

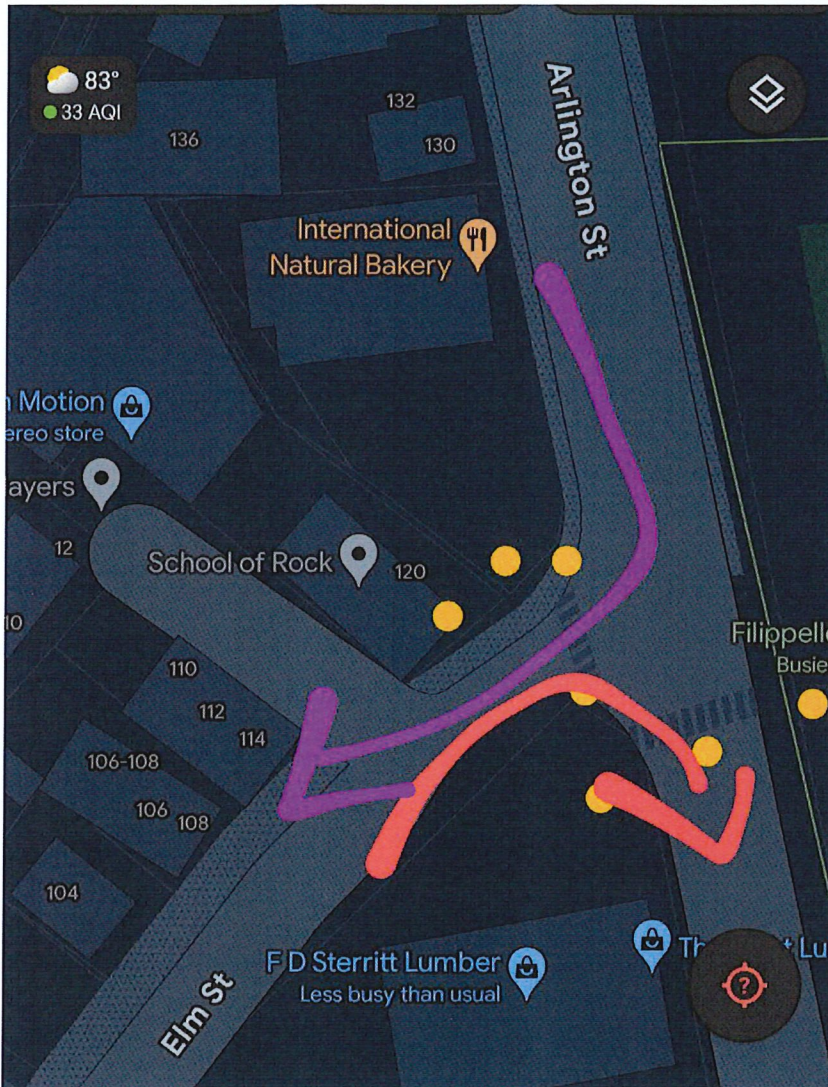
dwindled.html?smid=nytcare-android-share). I am also especially concerned because I tend to walk and cycle these areas with my small daughter and my pregnant wife.

In each, I will identify the area, the danger, and suggest ideas that I have. Of course, I am sure that experts would have even more effective suggestions.

1. Elm & Arlington Crossing.

Dangers: poor visibility in crossing Elm (pedestrian lights on Arlington have GREATLY improved that crossing). Unfamiliar drivers turning westward onto Elm to go to Target at high speeds. Drivers who roll the stop sign on Elm to turn onto southbound Arlington.



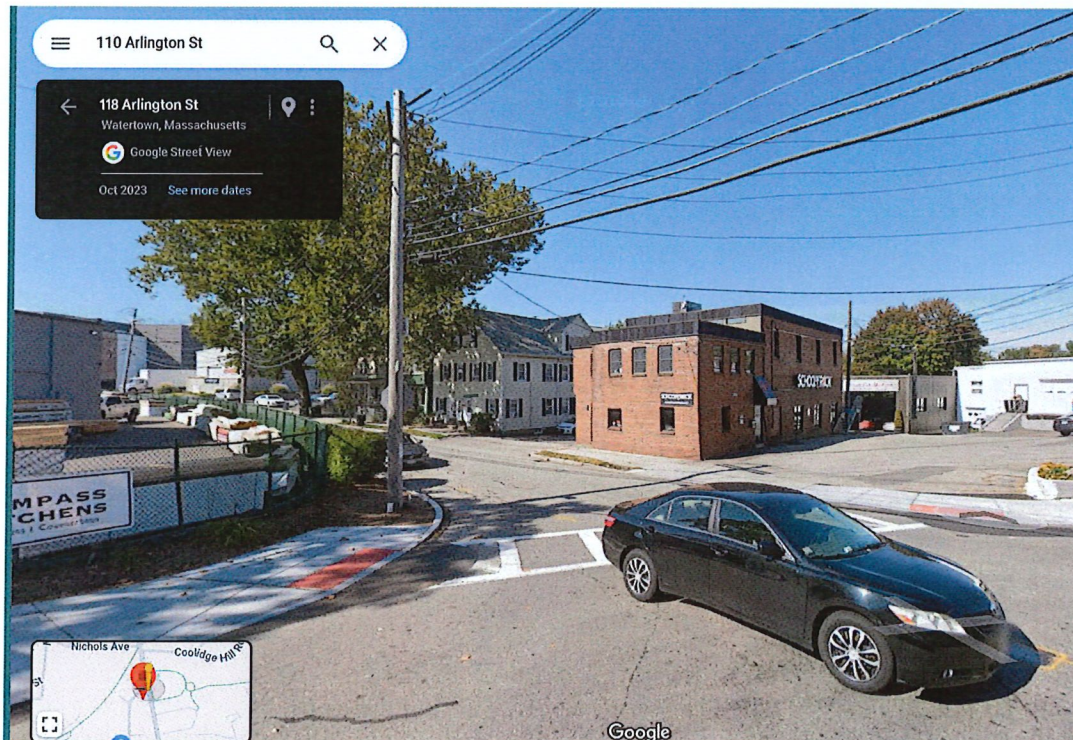


When one stands at the Northern side of Elm, it is difficult to see cars on Arlington who might be about to turn at speed.

It is too difficult to see drivers who are speeding through this intersection.



Solutions: Removing the parking spot on the West side of Arlington just north of Elm and widening the pedestrian crossing so it can be more visible to drivers on Arlington would greatly help this intersection. Cutting back bushes on the south side of Elm would help pedestrians to see cars rolling the stop sign on Elm to turn onto Arlington.



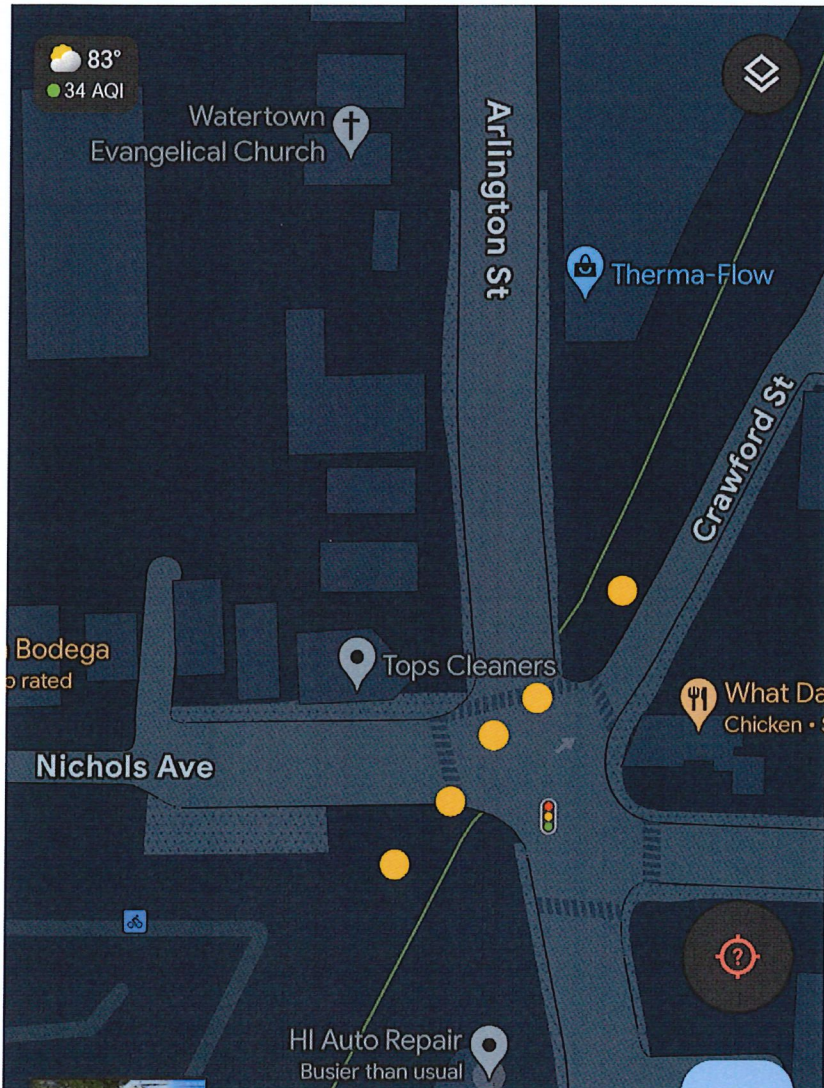
This seems especially critical because this is an important crossing to get to Filippello Playground / Park and Watertown city events there, such as youth soccer.

2. Crossing Over Nichols and Arlington on the bike path / Greenway.

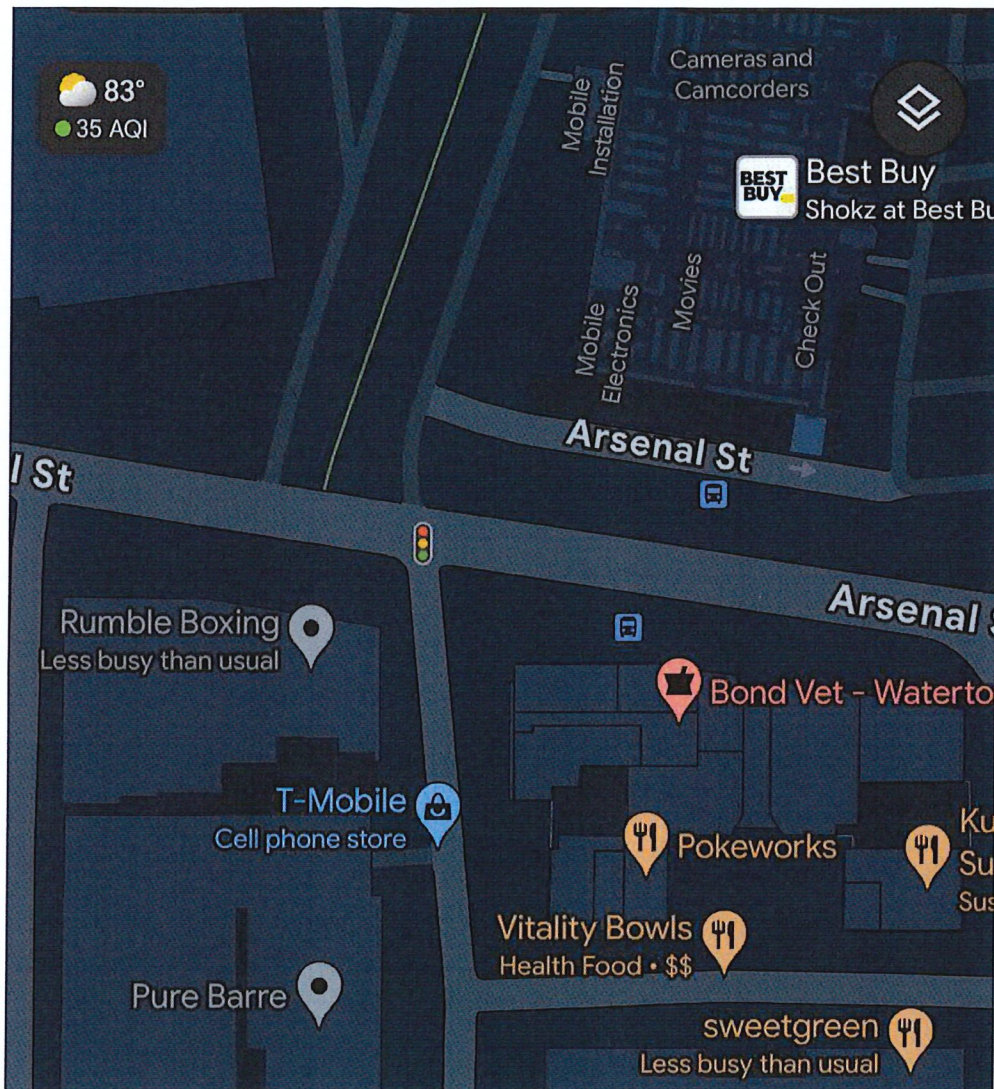
Dangers: Narrow/overgrown bike path/Greenway south of Nichols with speeding eBikes (**solution:** widen the path, cut back on vegetation). Crossing time at Nichols/Arlington intersection is not long enough (**solution:** extend crossing time by three seconds or so).

I cross this intersection at least twice a day, and my main concern is that, because drivers will tend to run the red lights, a fully capable adult barely has enough time to walk from one side of the intersection to the other. My four-year-old cannot cross in time, and we regularly run out of crossing time.

Anybody who is young or differently abled simply does not have enough time to cross the intersection.

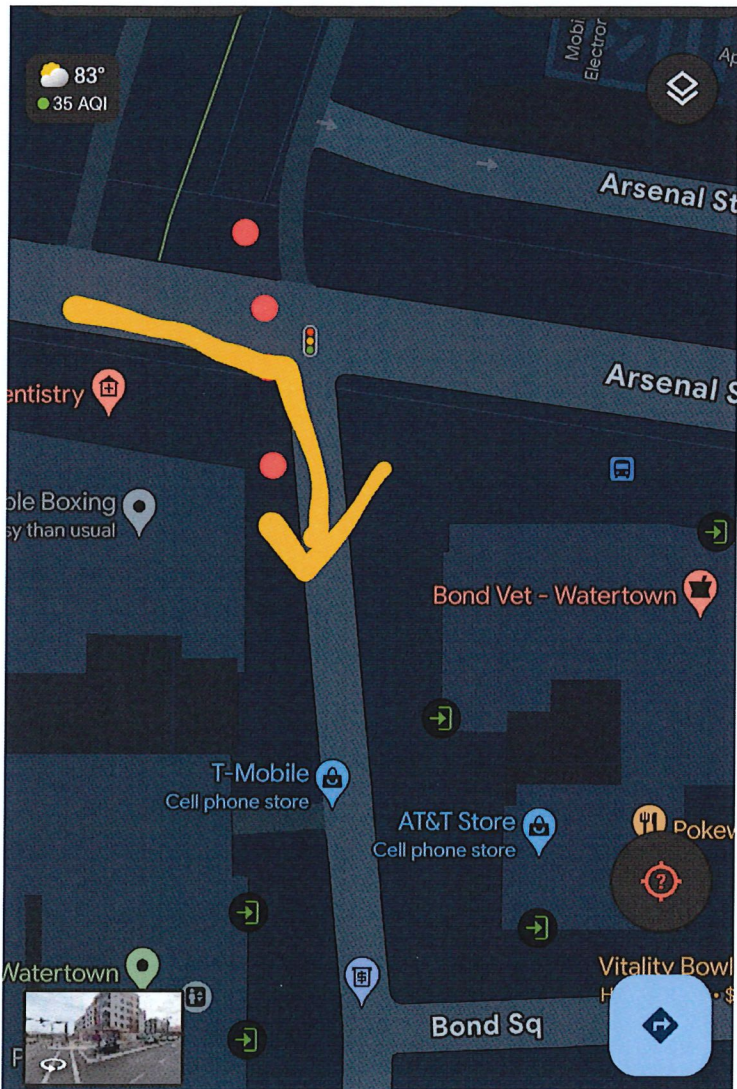


3. Crossing Arsenal Street at Bond Street.

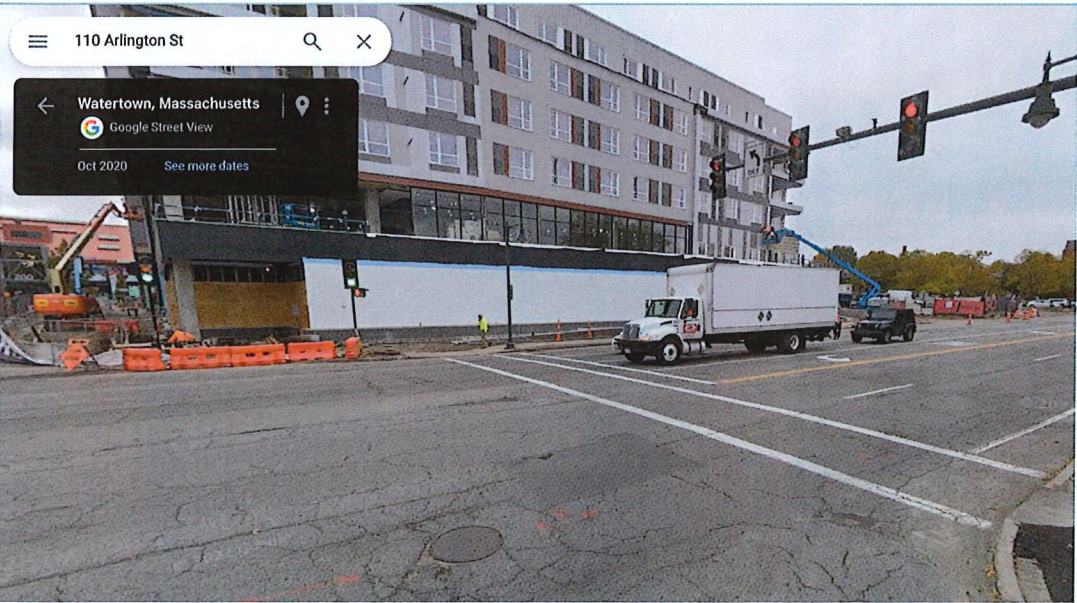


Danger: Cars tend to roll the red light to turn right from eastbound Arsenal Street to turn southbound onto Bond street. The issue is that pedestrians have to cross over five lanes of traffic at the light and cannot see the cars who are running the red to turn into the mall at Bond Street.

This is honestly enough of a deterrent that sometimes my family and I do not visit the shops / amenities at Arsenal because the crossing feels so stressful.



Here is an old Streetview image of how a pedestrian might not be able to see a car in the far lane not stopping at the light (if it were behind the white truck about to turn right without stopping).



Solution: add a red turn arrow to eastbound Arsenal Street at Bond Street and turn it to a "No Turn on Red."
Barring this, there needs to be some sort of enforcement of drivers not stopping at the red to make the right turn.

THANK YOU SO MUCH for your time and consideration. I'd be happy to discuss any of this further, and I thought an email format might be easier than approaching you in person (though I would be happy to continue the conversation however).

Best,

Joshua Walker

11 Wheeler Court, Watertown

Joshua S. Walker, PhD
Russian Teacher, Language Coordinator
he / his / him
BB&N School
[Hear my name in Russian](#)

Джосиуа Степанович Уокер, Кандидат наук
Учитель русского языка
он / его / его / ему / нём / им
Школа ББН, г. Кембридж, США
[*Произношение имени*](#)



Arlington Street at Elm Street



Arsenal Street at Bond Street



