

One Chief's Perspective



October 31, 2019

Pedestrian Cross Walk Safety- Reminder

I last [discussed](#) the crosswalk law in Minnesota a few years ago and an event earlier this fall provided a reason for a reminder. The 2016 entry provides an overview of the statute and when a pedestrian is afforded the legal authority to be in the “right” when crossing a roadway. Readers should note the definitions to establish who is at fault in an automobile versus pedestrian crash. A pedestrian can be at fault for the crash or the facts may not lend themselves to form a proof beyond a reasonable doubt decision in court.



[In examining the case this fall](#), I want to introduce physics using publicly available internet sources that you can verify. The involved automobile was listed as traveling 40 miles per hour in a 40 mph zone. That means the car was travelling 58.87 feet per second.

Perception to reaction time is the time it takes a person to recognize a need to do something, and then take a physical action. It's another definition of Observe, Orient, Decide and Act Loop (OODA) mentioned in [previous newsletters](#). The approximate perception to reaction time is about 1.5 seconds. It takes a person approximately 1.5 seconds to move in response to an unanticipated action. The car in this case would have traveled at least 88.3 feet prior to the driver actually applying the brakes, moving the steering wheel to avoid the pedestrian, or some other evasive action.

Physics involving weight, speed, friction and grade will affect the [total stopping distance](#) for the vehicle - in this case it was approximately 164 feet. The driver would have required approximately 164 feet of roadway to stop prior to the crosswalk and avoid the pedestrian.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation released a [comprehensive pedestrian safety report](#) after working with the St. Paul Police Department on some pedestrian safety efforts. The report shows how evaluation zones should be set up to determine if a driver violated the crosswalk law. The report listed the following: *Motorists who pass this cone or marker when a pedestrian has entered the crosswalk cannot be scored as failing to yield, because they passed the point in which there was sufficient time to safely yield right-of-way to pedestrians... Assuming a street with no grade ... at 35 mph, it should be marked at 183 feet.* The report did not list speed limits higher than 35 mph.

This [Google Maps view](#) provides a firsthand look at what 164 feet away from the crosswalk looks like. *I was careful not to alter the scale of the viewer.* You might feel you could stop your car at 40 mph prior to the crosswalk, but you cannot escape physics and your body's potential. The jogger was traveling east on the path you see on the right side of screen. Do you see any trees or vegetation that blocks your clear view?

Other public input received was that the driver should have been designated for a “re-test.” A [re-test](#) is given by the state to drivers who are at a higher risk for driving problems. Take note that

Service



Integrity



Respect



Innovation

One Chief's Perspective



October 31, 2019

age alone cannot be considered cause for re-examination. The website offers great advice to consider with members of your own family who are poor drivers, for any reason.

This was a life changing crash for the pedestrian and his family, along with the driver. I don't want to diminish their grief and concern in this newsletter. I just want to provide some clarity as to the work behind the scene and a safety reminder for both pedestrians and motorists. *I have said numerous times that one of the goals of the newsletters, our website, etc. is to increase transparency in the Roseville Police Department and law enforcement, in general.*



Earlier this month, we held the second day of firearms training in Anoka County. *There are only a few outdoor ranges remaining in the metro.* Range training is not static. It generally involves scenarios and incorporates numerous decision-making opportunities. In this case, Officer Carter was to make the rifle "squad ready"- *I messed up that part on my turn - recognize the threat and identify the deadly force threats among multiple rotating targets.*

Connecting with our Community



Several police explorers and advisors assisted area seniors with outdoor chores again this fall. They managed to fill 53 bags with leaves from three homes.



Earlier this month, Officer Mike Holtmeier met a group enjoying the nice weather at Central Park-Victoria. Mike said some of them also enjoyed pushing random buttons in the squad.

Take Care, Chief Rick Mathwig



Service



Integrity



Respect



Innovation