

Crash Analysis Studio

Session 3: Richmond, Virginia

March 24, 2023



Today's Panelists

Jennifer Griffin

Brantley Tyndall

Jordyn Taylor

Tara FitzPatrick

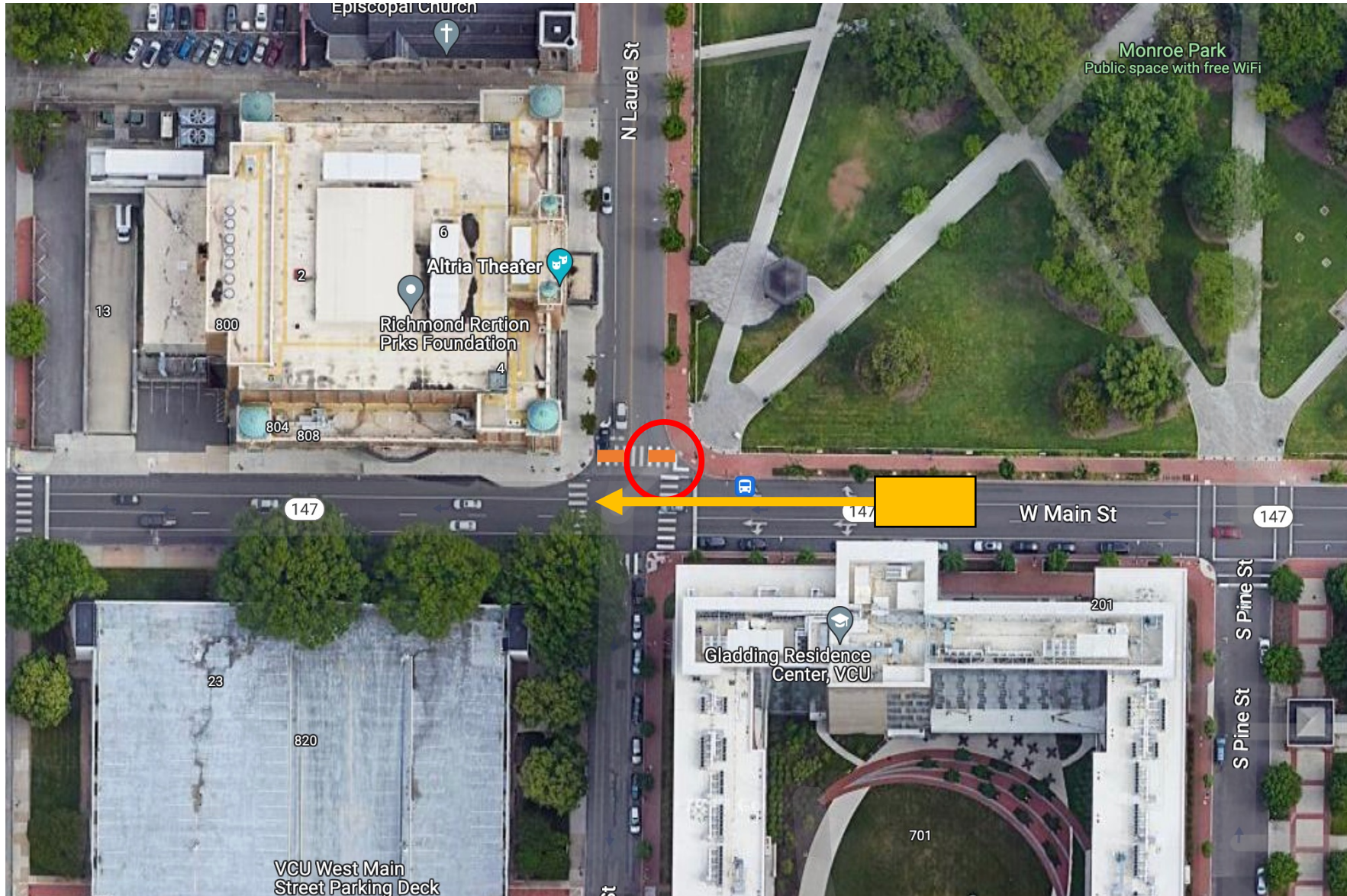
Edward Erfurt

Crash Information

- Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) student Mahrokh Khan (22 y/o) died at VCU Medical Center after being struck at intersection of Laurel and West Main Street
 - Khan was hit in the right travel lane of West Main
 - Currently, there is no crash report available from the Richmond police (this is an active investigation)
- Occurred at approximately 9:00am on January 27, 2023
- Weather reports indicate it was dry & partially cloudy that day; road surfaces were likely not slick due to weather

Crash Information

- The posted speed limit documented by our nominator is 25MPH
 - *Speed limit is not listed in the media coverage*
- W Main is a one-way road – Motorist was traveling west
- Mahrokh Khan was crossing on either the East or West side of Laurel
- Collision occurred in the right lane of West Main Street
- Media indicates the driver stayed on the scene after the crash; no charges have been filed
- “Under active investigation” means facts are still being determined and presented to the commonwealth’s attorney



Crash Information

- Relevant circumstances & facts
 - Multiple locals reported speeding as common throughout this area
 - Crashes occur frequently on the VCU campus – including one a week after this one
- No Driver's statement or witness statements currently available
 - This is an active investigation
- Media coverage did not mention if impairment tests were administered

Overall Site Conditions

- 25mph posted speed limit
- **Main Street Before Laurel (East)** – 3 Lanes: dedicated right turn lane, middle lane thru traffic, and a shared left thru lane; south-side has parallel on-street parking
- **Main Street After Laurel (West)** – both lanes thru traffic; parallel parking on both sides of street
- **Laurel North of Main** – At intersection, 3 Lanes; dedicated right turn lane, two-way traffic; east side of street parallel parking lane with no parking signs.
- **Laurel South of Main** – One-Way; Two unmarked lanes; east side of street parallel parking lane
- 4-way crosswalk; clear pushbuttons at each corner
- 2 signals – one for West Main and one for North Laurel crossing to South Laurel
 - North Laurel is 2-way, South Laurel is one-way
- Construction on dormitory & park in recent years without major adjustments to the intersection itself



Monroe Park
Public space with free WiFi

N Laurel St

W Main St

S Pine St

Gladding Residence
Center, VCU

Altria Theater
Richmond Rertion
Prks Foundation

147

147

147

23

820

201

13

800

804

808

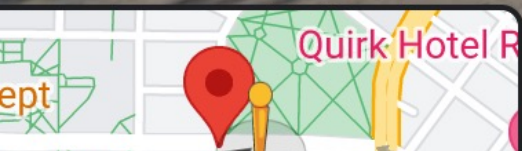
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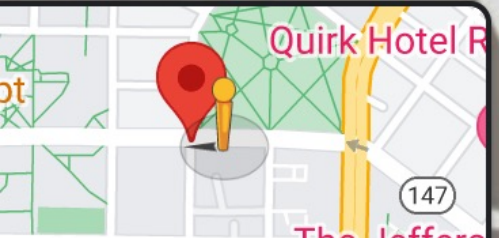
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Motorist POV
1 Block out from Laurel

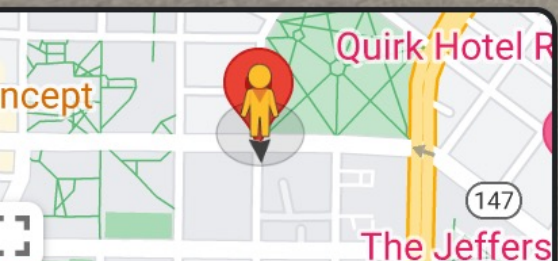


Motorist POV
Entering Intersection w/ Laurel



Westbound View

Google



Google

Southbound Approach (Laurel)



N Laurel St

Total Width – 55' 7.4"

Sidewalk – 14'

Width w/o Sidewalk – 41' 7.4"

Turn Lane – 12' 6"

Lane – 9' 11"

Lane – 9' 6"

Parking – 9' 8.4"

147

W Main St



Pedestrian POV
Full Intersection (NW → SE)



s Laurel St. N

W. Main St.

ONE WAY
←
ONE WAY
→

VCU
West Main
Street Bus
Stop Library

Altria Theater
WILSON

**Pedestrian POV Facing West
West Main & Laurel Intersection**



**Pedestrian POV (Park-side)
Intersection of West Main & Laurel**



Pedestrian POV
Full Intersection (SW → NE)

Overall Site Conditions

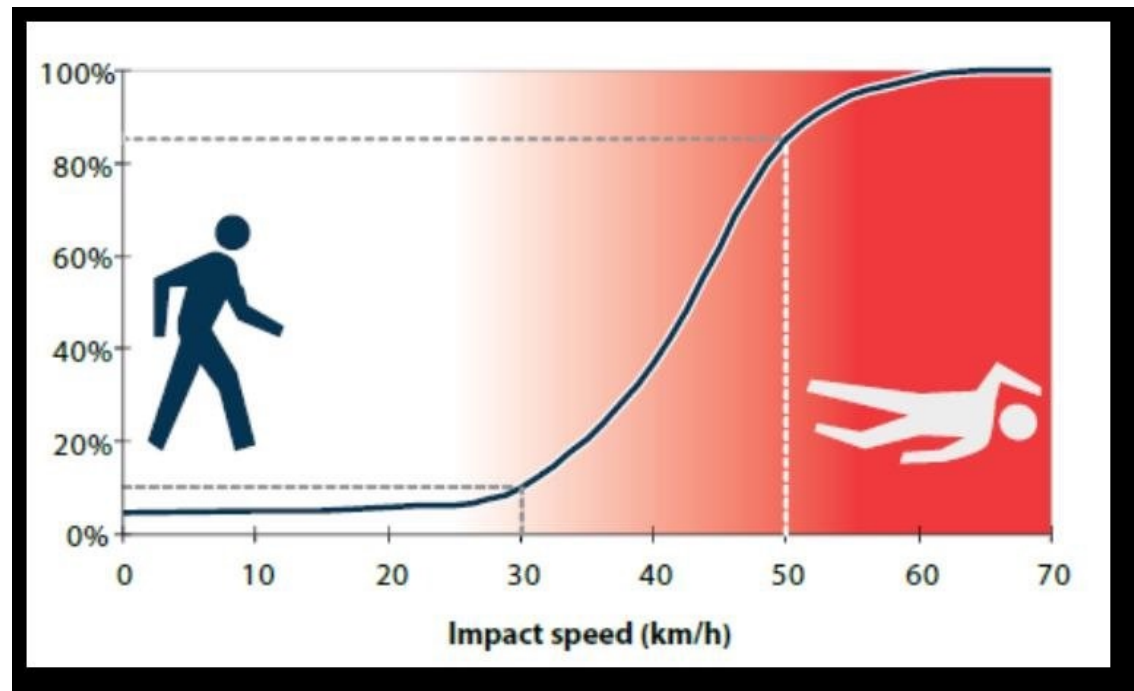
- Urban development pattern with a mix of residential, retail, & educational uses
 - Proximity to dormitories, apartment complexes, VCU campus buildings
 - High volume of pedestrians and cyclists (VCU Students)
- Traditional Grid of Streets forming Blocks
 - Surrounded by multiple major boulevards, expressways, and highways
- Multiple Civic and Cultural Destinations
 - Virginia Commonwealth University
 - The Black History Museum
 - The Convention Center
 - Altria Theater
- Adjacent to multiple parking lots & a large parking deck

Overall Site Conditions

- Preliminary Speed Study indicates significant number of automobiles traveling at fatal speeds

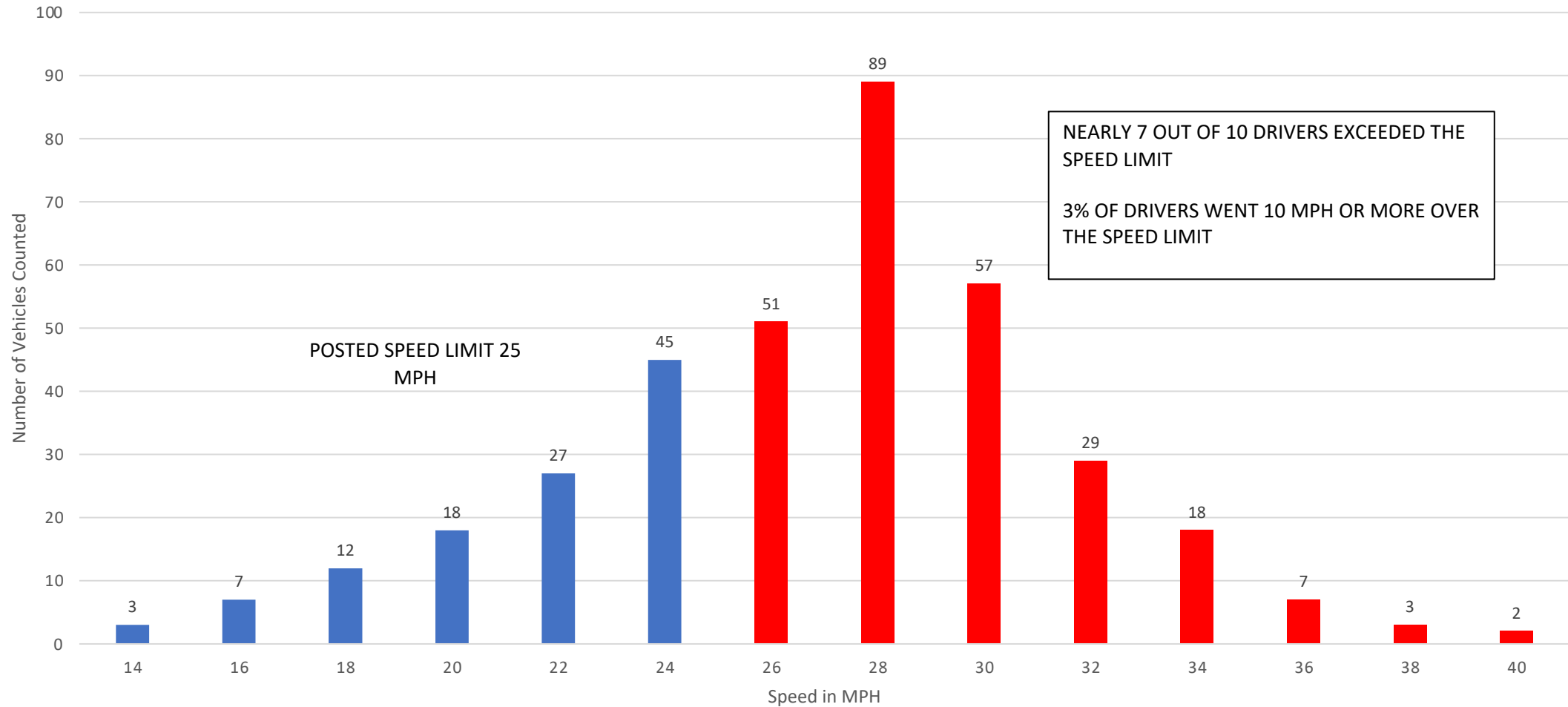
The effects of higher speed limits on traffic fatalities in the United States, 1993–2017.

-Insurance Institute for Highway Safety



Speed Data

Laurel & West Main Street - Richmond, Virginia
Number of Vehicles Driving at Each Speed



*Most college campuses have speeds that are 10-15MPH - is **25MPH just too fast?**

**Speed study completed one month after VCU Safety Campaign

*85th percentile speed = 32 MPH



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W Main St

147

Acknowledgements & Special Thanks

- Our Panelists
- Richmond Strong Towns members Sharon Shaw and Christian Schick
- Erik Bootsma
- Richmond community members
- The Khan Family
 - Their [GoFundMe](#) is still online – we'll share the link in chat now and in our materials after the session.
- Strong Towns Staff