

Crash Analysis Studio

Ella T Grasso Blvd in New Haven, Connecticut

June 24, 2025

Today's Panelists

Leslie Radcliffe

Jose DeJesus

Rishabh Mittal

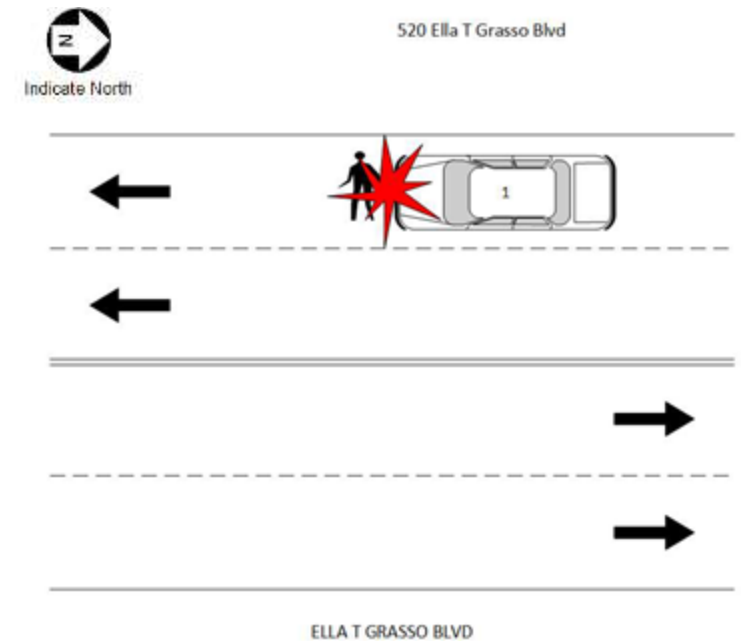
Background

- We're examining a crash that happened on Ella T Grasso Boulevard south of Columbus Avenue; we'll also reference another collision and response that happened north of Columbus.
- South section crash happened near the Flea Market.
- North section crash happened near the Evergreen Cemetery entrance.
- In both the crashes, the car was travelling southbound on Ella T Grasso while the pedestrian was trying to cross the street mid-block.
- Both crashes were fatal to the pedestrian.
- Ella T Grasso Boulevard, or Connecticut Route 10, is a state controlled road.



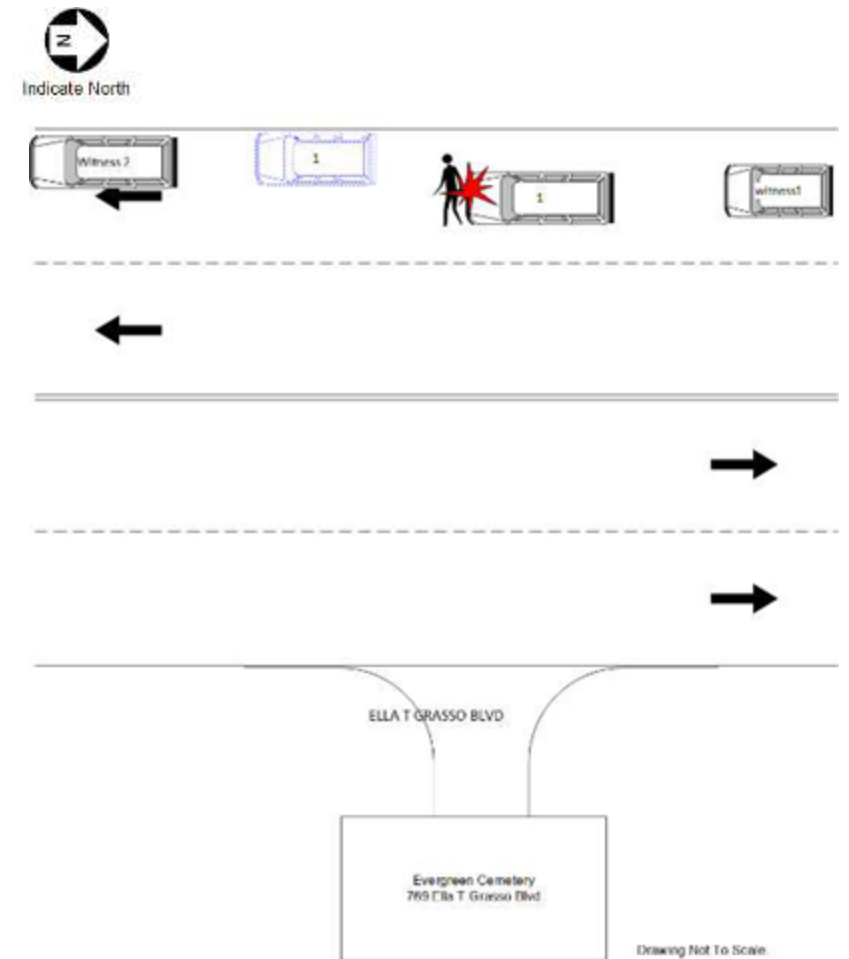
South Section Crash Information

- Carlos Ortiz, age 35, was struck and killed by a car on Ella T Grasso south of Columbus Ave (between Printer's Lane and Adeline Street).
 - The motorist was traveling in the outer southbound lane & cooperated with police.
 - Some sources listed Ortiz as "unidentified"
- The crash occurred at approximately 6:00 pm on Dec 29, 2020.
 - Pedestrian transported to Yale New Haven hospital & died on December 30th.
- Weather reports tell us it was dry in the 30s in New Haven that evening.



North Section Crash Information

- 50 year old Arthur Bastek was struck and killed by a car just north of Columbus Ave.
- The crash occurred at 7:03 pm on Jan 14, 2020.
- **Note:** In early 2023, CTDOT used quick-build solutions to narrow the road at this crash site.



North Section Crash



South Section Crash



Overall Site Conditions

- Ella T Grasso Blvd is a **major thoroughfare** for city traffic.
- The south section features **four through travel lanes (2 in each direction)**, while the north section currently features *2 travel lanes* and *2 buffer areas*.
- Posted speed limit is **35 mph**.
- North Section used to have four travel lanes, but a **road-diet** in early 2023 reduced the area to one travel lane in each direction.
- South Section's road configuration has remained **unchanged** since the crash.

Overall Site Conditions

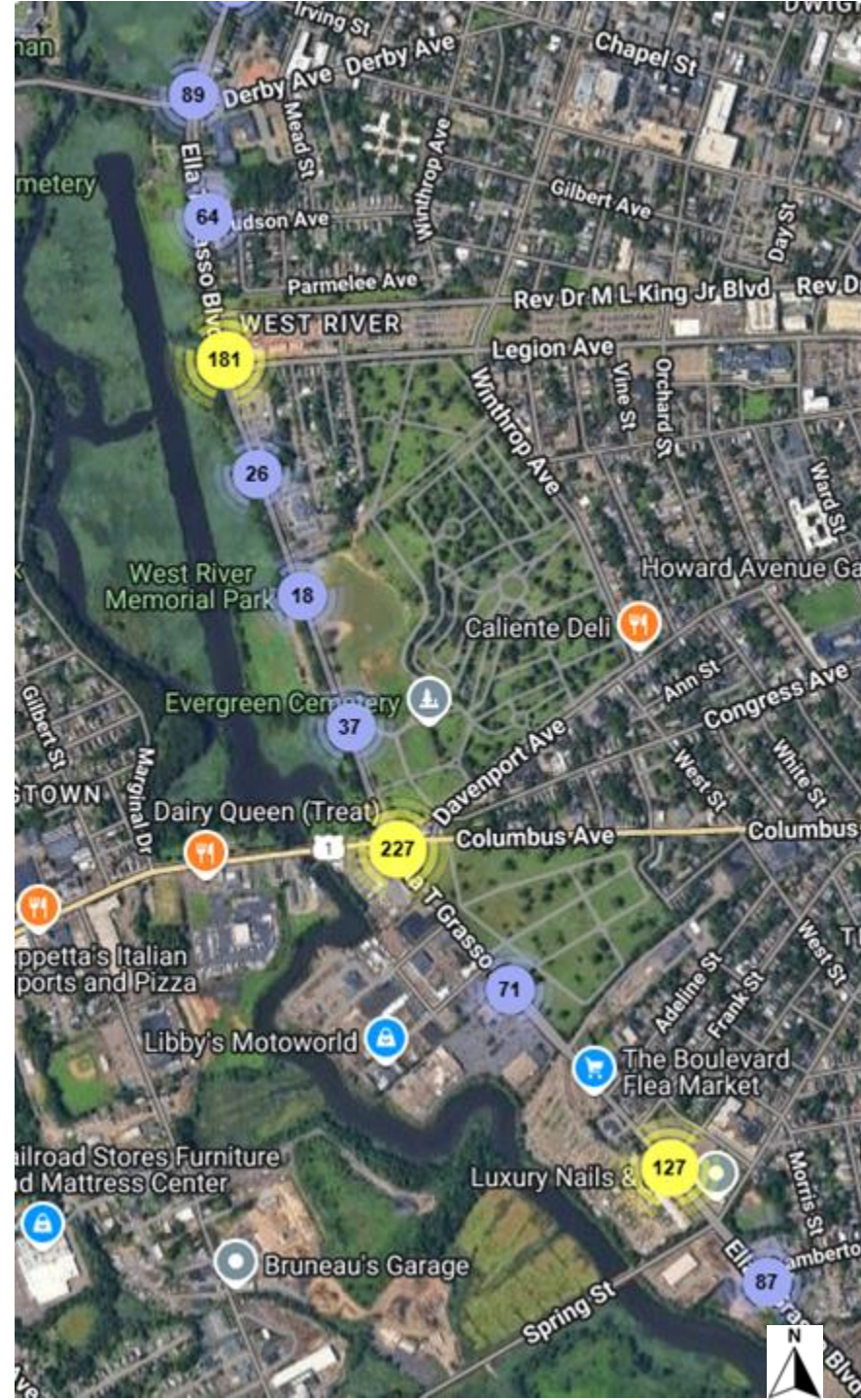
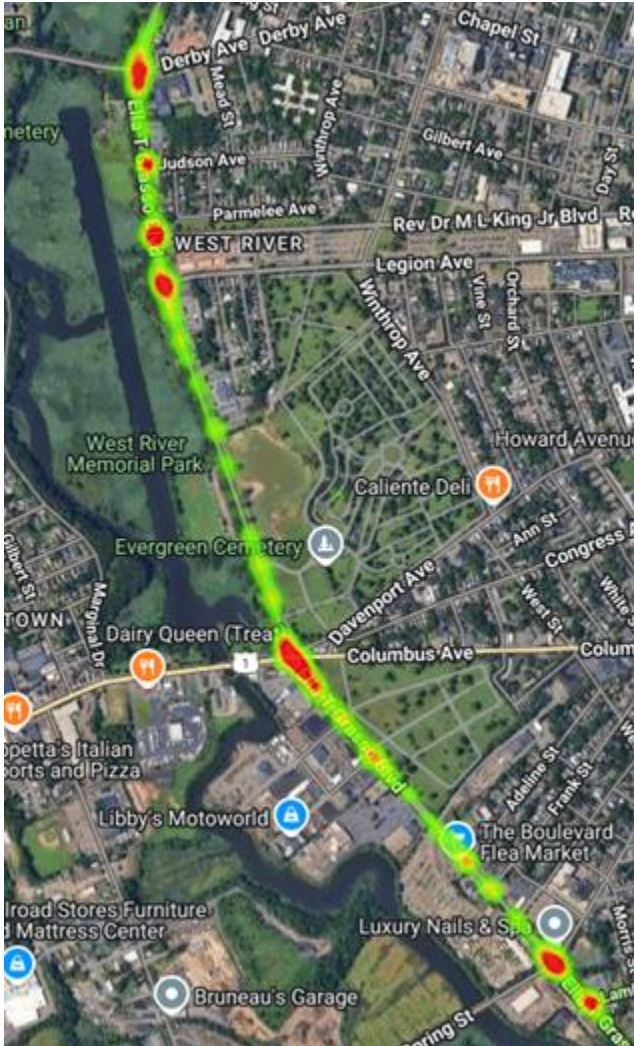
- Southern Section is a commercial area with shops, offices and a local flea market.
- These commercial areas attract residents from the Hill neighbourhood across the road.
- The Flea Market attracts many people from the surrounding areas for their everyday needs.

Why this location?

- Community has expressed concerns about this intersection; it has received considerable media coverage.
- This road has seen many car crashes and fatalities.
- Within a mile of this road, **nine fatalities** have occurred since 2020 (and 11 since 2019).
- Most fatalities occur due to mid-block crossing.

Crash Data

Ella T Grasso Blvd
- last 5 years

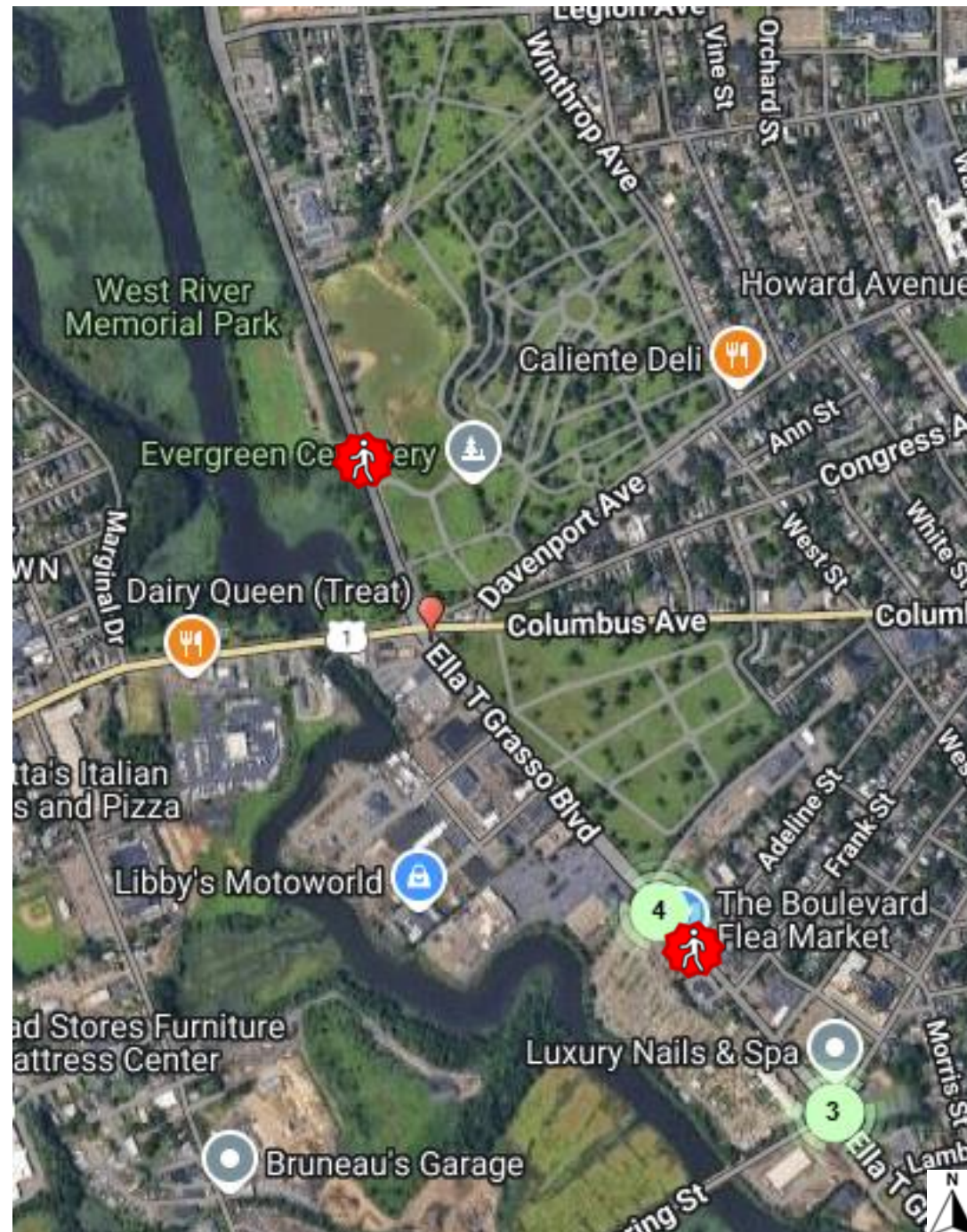


Within this map:

- Total Crashes: **927**
- Crash Rate: **1** crash every **2** days.
- Intersections are hotspots for crashes.

Fatalities

Ella T Grasso Blvd
- since 2020

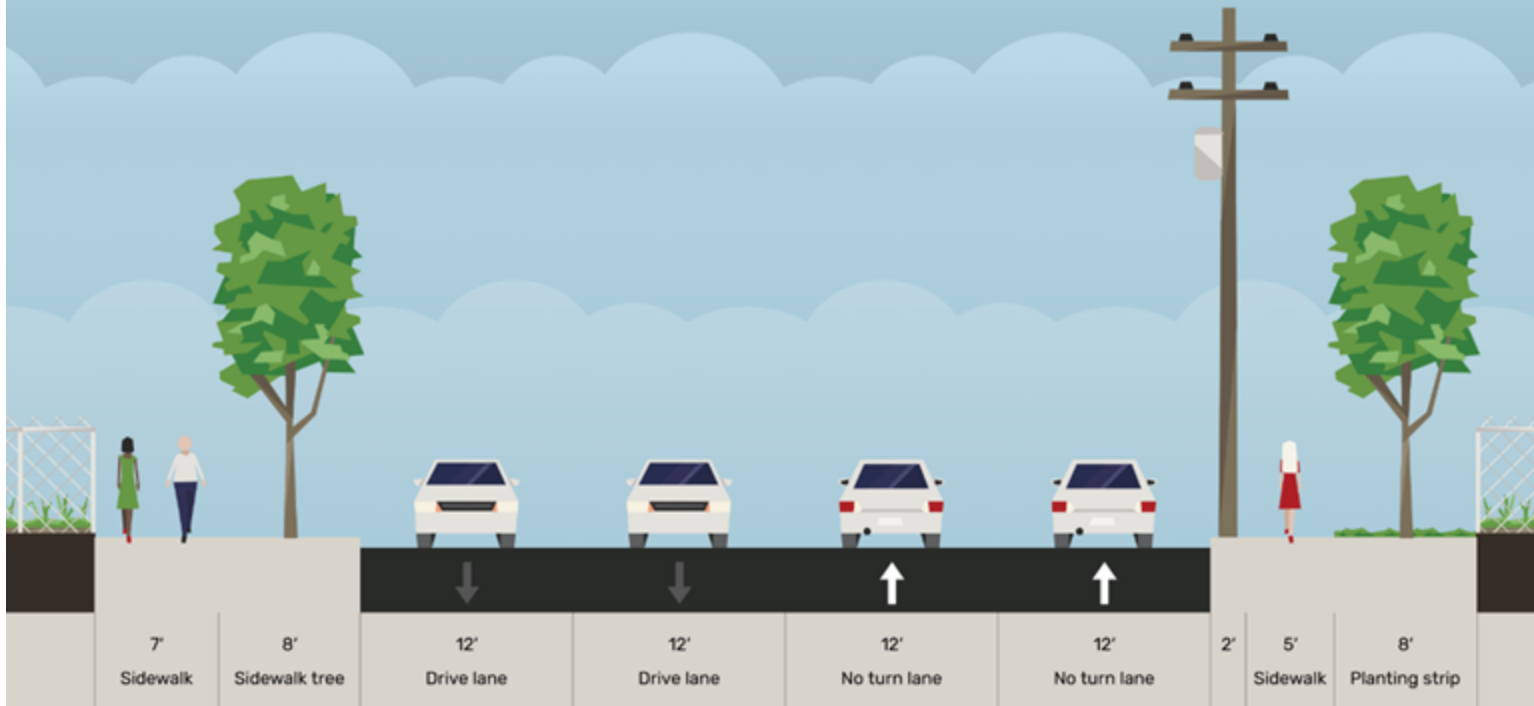


- Fatalities: **9**
- Road length: **> 1 mile**
- Hotspot: **Southern** section
7 fatalities
- Unsafe mid-block crossings are listed as causing most of the deaths.

Southern Section Fatalities Since 2019

Name	Date	Time	Age	Location
Lonny Bosquiat	08/10/19	11:56pm	42	Near Truman
Pedro Lopez	12/06/19	8:43am	86	Near Adeline
Anthony Little	04/04/20	7:56pm	31	Near Adeline
Eric Pechalonis	8/31/20	8:30pm	52	Orange Ave & Columbus
Carlos Ortiz	12/29/20	6:00pm	35	Near Adeline
Curtis Woods	04/08/21	1:11am	67	Near Lamberton
Henry McDuffie	04/21/21	10:34pm	71	Near Adeline
Damaso Rosario Luna	10/29/22	9:56pm	65	Near Kimberly
Dennis Eaton	01/28/24	1:28am	70	Near Washington

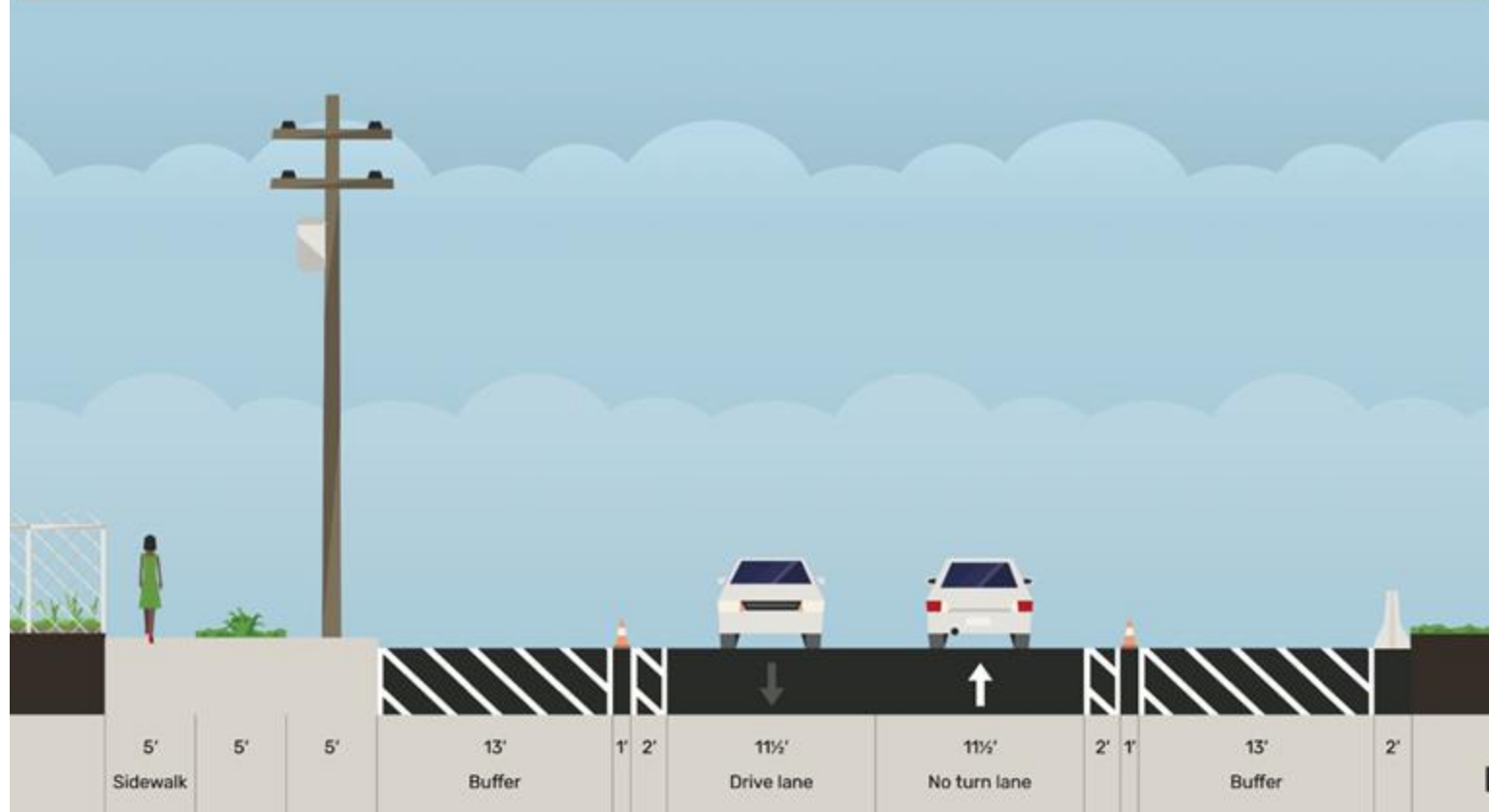
Ella T Grasso - Southbound - South Section



Four 12' wide through traffic lanes
8' planter and tree areas; one 2' pole area
Sidewalks that are 5' and 7' wide
Total width: 78' (48' across pavement)



Ella T Grasso - Southbound - North Section



Two 11.5' Wide Through Traffic Lanes

Two 14' Wide Side Buffers

10' Planter + Pole areas, 5' Sidewalk on East side.

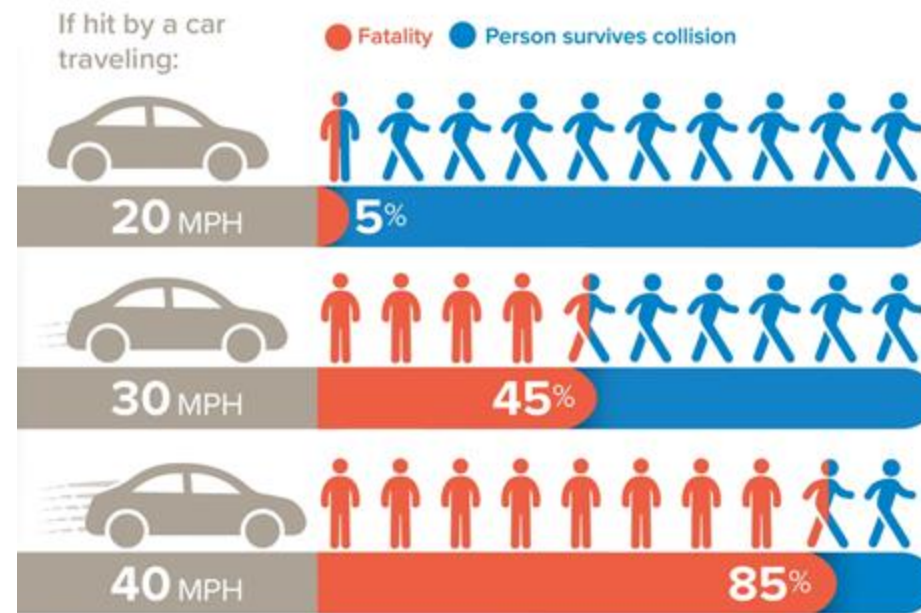
No sidewalk on the West side.

Total width: 72' (57 feet across pavement)



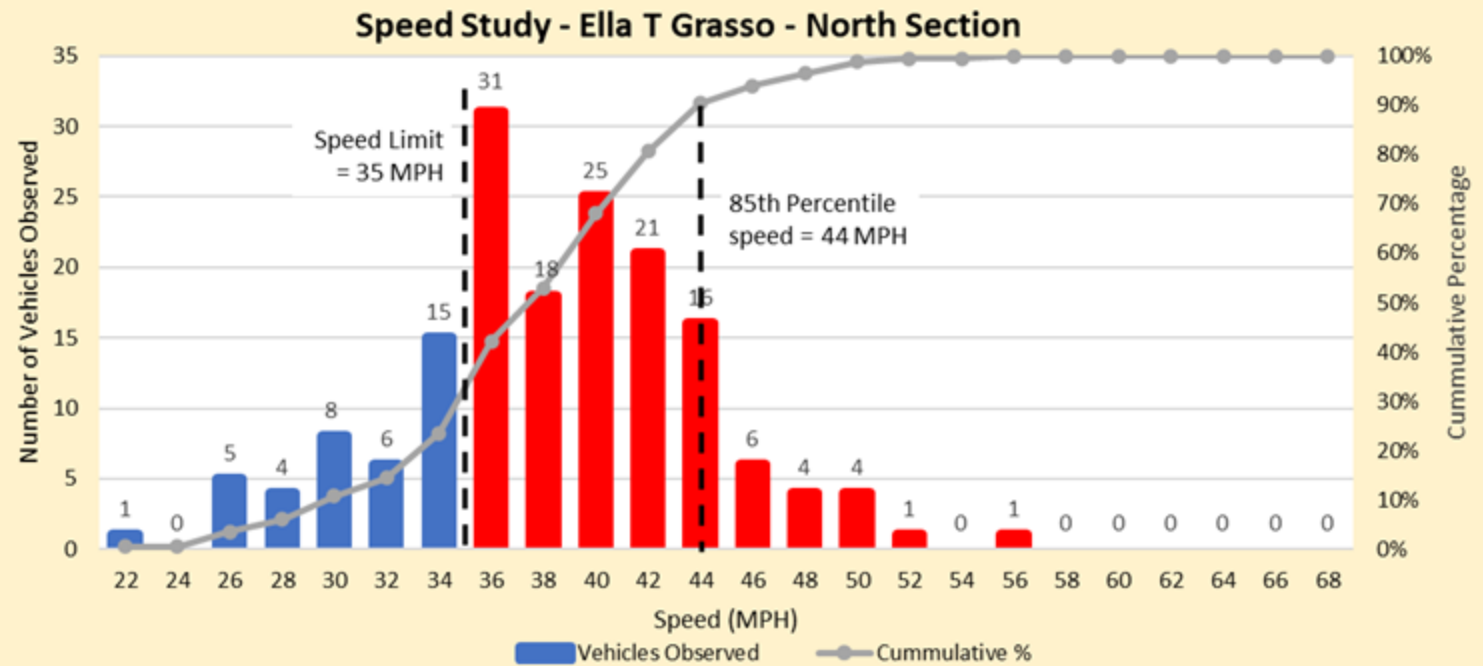
Overall Site Conditions - Speed Data

- Preliminary Speed Study indicates significant number of automobiles traveling at dangerously high—and potentially lethal—speeds

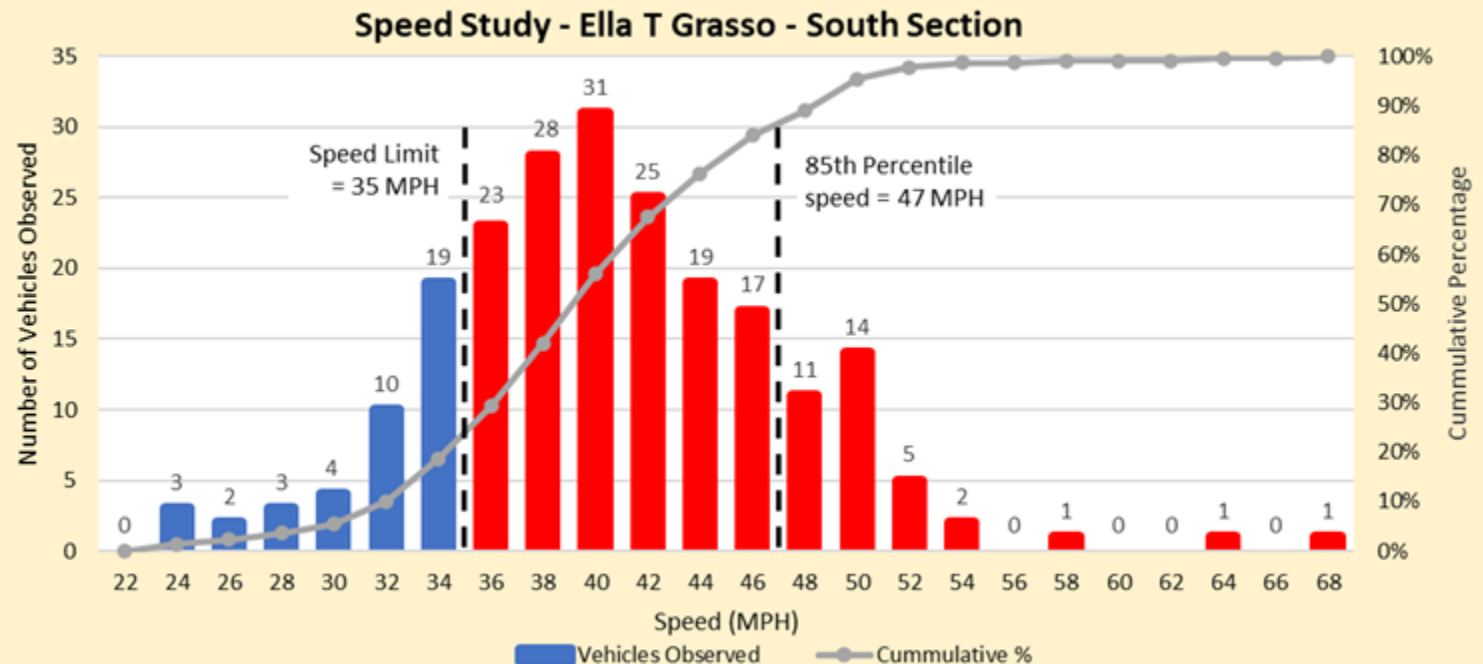


National Traffic Safety Board (2017) Reducing Speeding-Related Crashes Involving Passenger Vehicles.
Available from: <https://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-studies/Documents/SS1701.pdf>

Speed Limit: **35 mph**
 166 vehicles tracked
76.5% of vehicles speeding
16 vehicles at 10+ mph over limit
 85th percentile speed: **44 mph**



Speed Limit: **35 mph**
 219 vehicles tracked
81.3% of vehicles speeding
52 vehicles at 10+ mph over limit
 85th percentile speed: **47 mph**

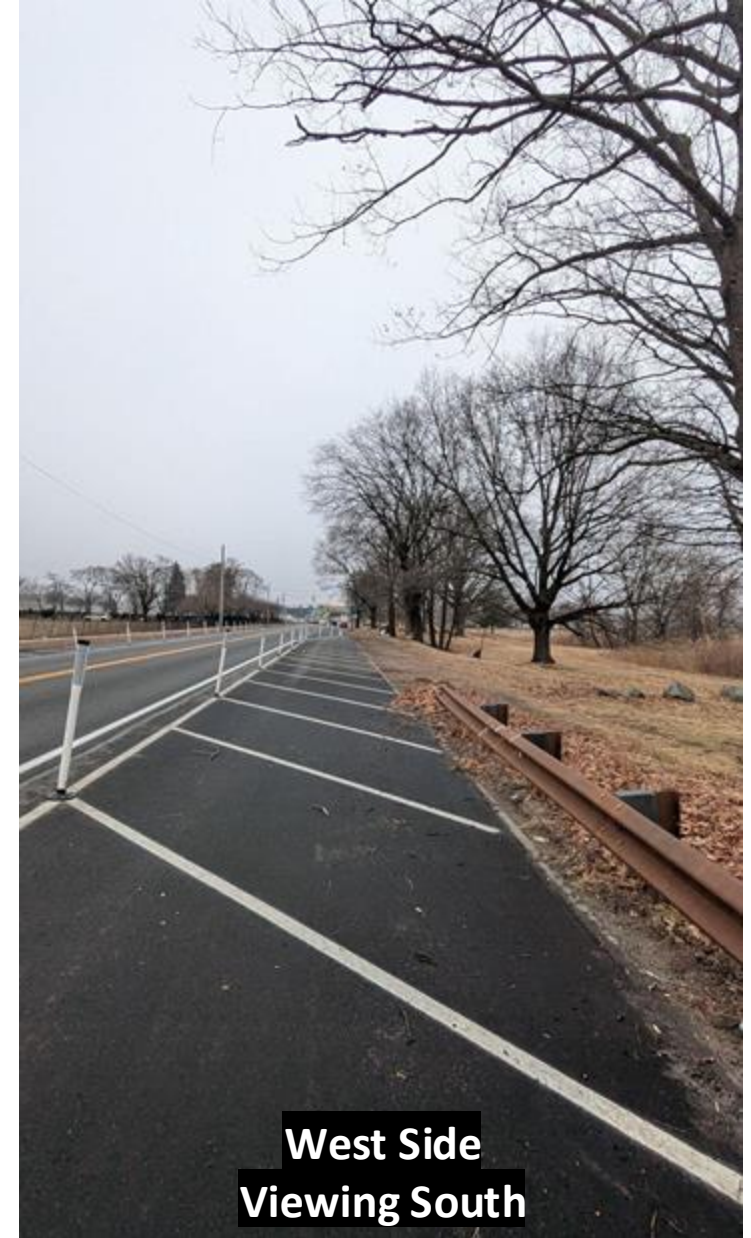


Northern Crash



**Approaching Crash Site - North Section
South Bound**

Northern Crash

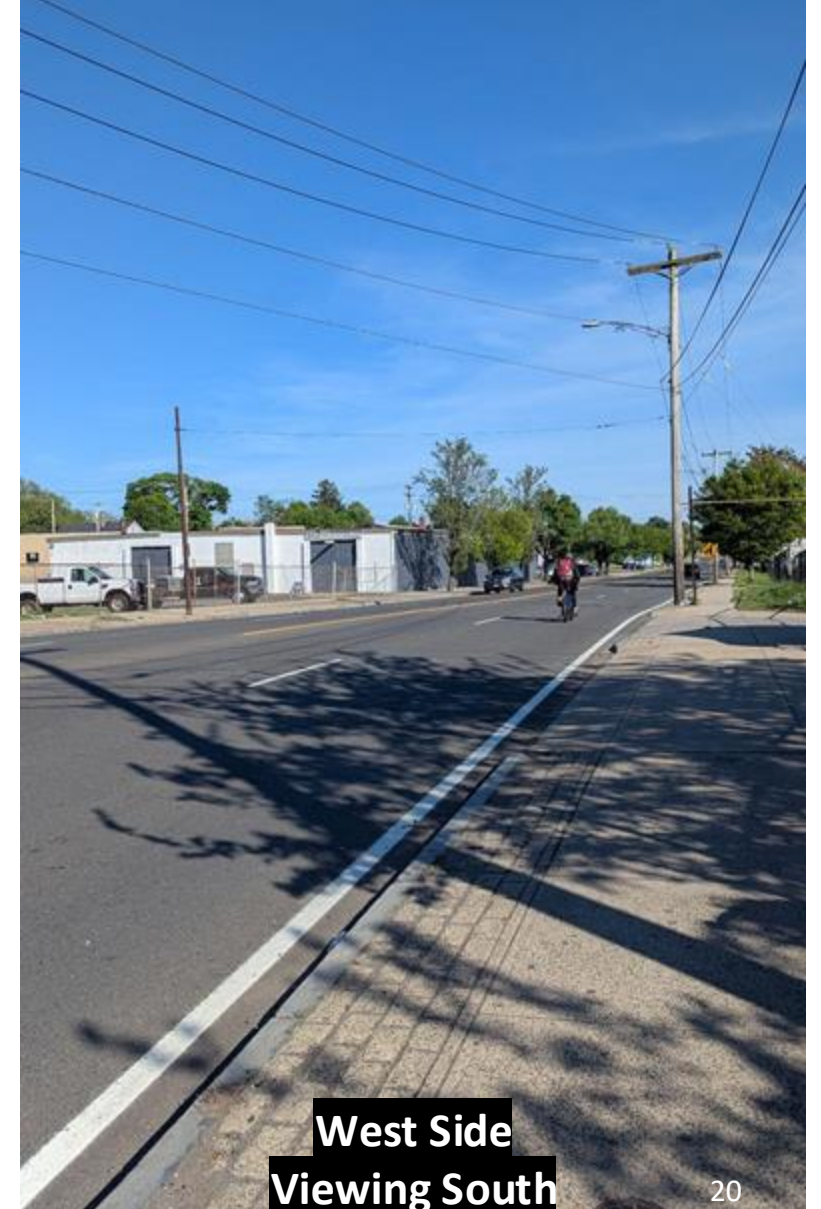


Southern Crash



**Approaching Crash Site - South Section
South Bound**

Southern Crash





A couple waiting to cross the road
NB view



A couple crossing the road
NB view

Acknowledgements & Special Thanks

- Our panelists, including Leslie Radcliffe, Jose DeJesus, and Rishabh Mittal
- Special thanks to Stronger Haven and its volunteers for gathering & preparing data.
- Helpful community members, friends, colleagues, and Strong Towns staff

Final Session in New Haven

- New Haven's next session is going to be the final session in this three-part series with Strong Towns.
- We are planning to conduct it sometime in late summer or early autumn.
- Follow our Local group - Stronger Haven on Social Media:
 - Instagram: [Stronger Haven](#)
 - Facebook: [Stronger Haven](#)