

Crash Analysis Studio

Memphis, Tennessee - Walnut Street and Vance Avenue

September 13, 2025

Today's Panelists

Will Henke

Yvonne Bobo

Brendan Duffy

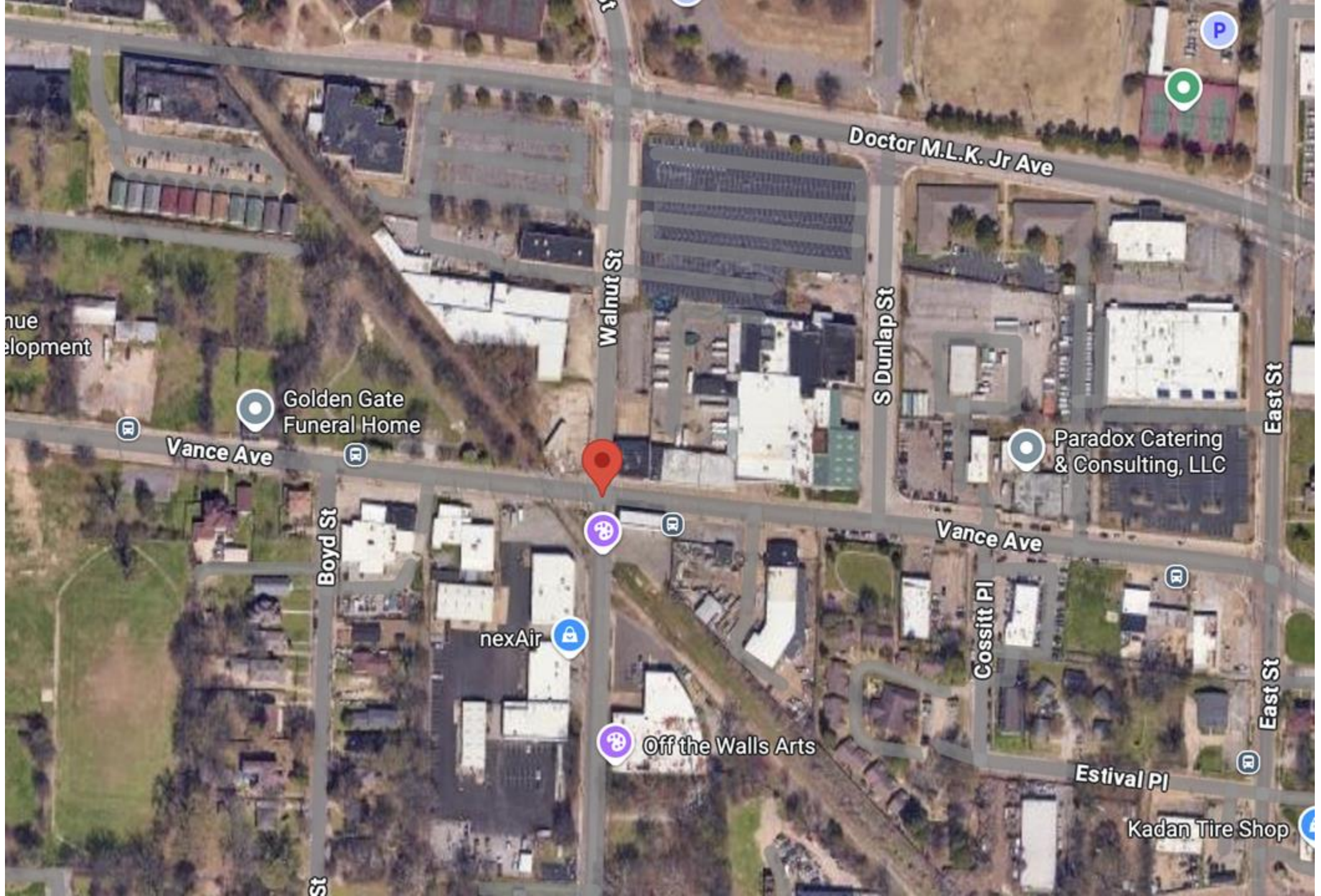
Robert Noordermeer

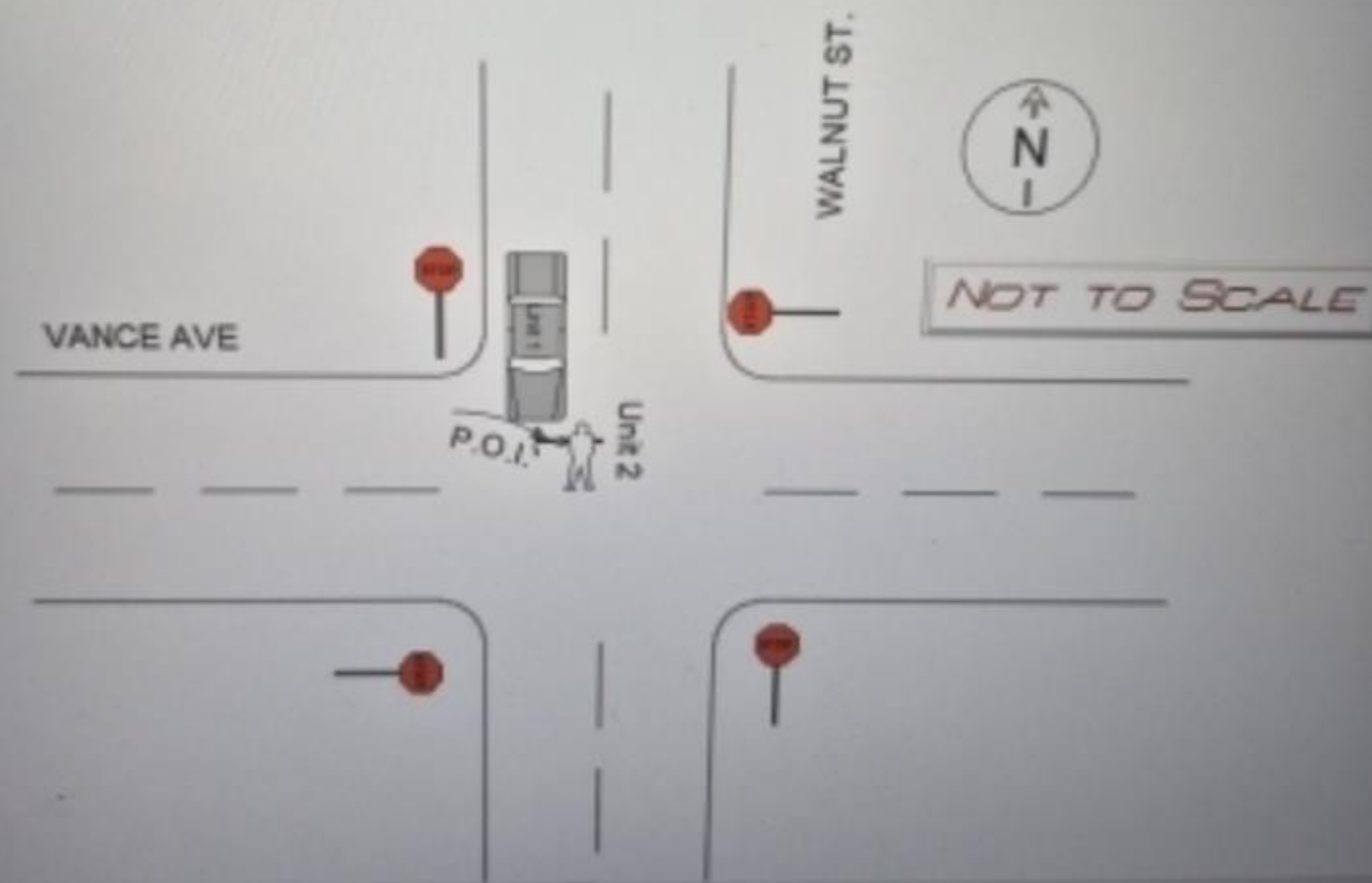
Crash Information

- The crash took place at 6:21pm on July 14, 2025.
- Unidentified southbound vehicle on Walnut Street struck William Gaines (also known as Don) as he was cycling westbound on Vance Avenue
- According to the crash report, Memphis Fire Department Unit 11 transported Gaines to the hospital (where he recovered fully)
- Crash report incorrectly states point of impact; Gaines indicates it was the front driver side of the vehicle that struck him.
- Weather reports state temperatures in the 80s that evening
 - Crash report states it was daylight with no adverse weather conditions.

Crash Information

- Responding fire unit reported seeing a red four-door sedan with front end damage speeding southbound on Walnut away from the scene
- Gaines was listed as having a minor injury and traveling on the road, outside of a crosswalk
- The speed limit at this intersection is posted as 35 miles per hour.



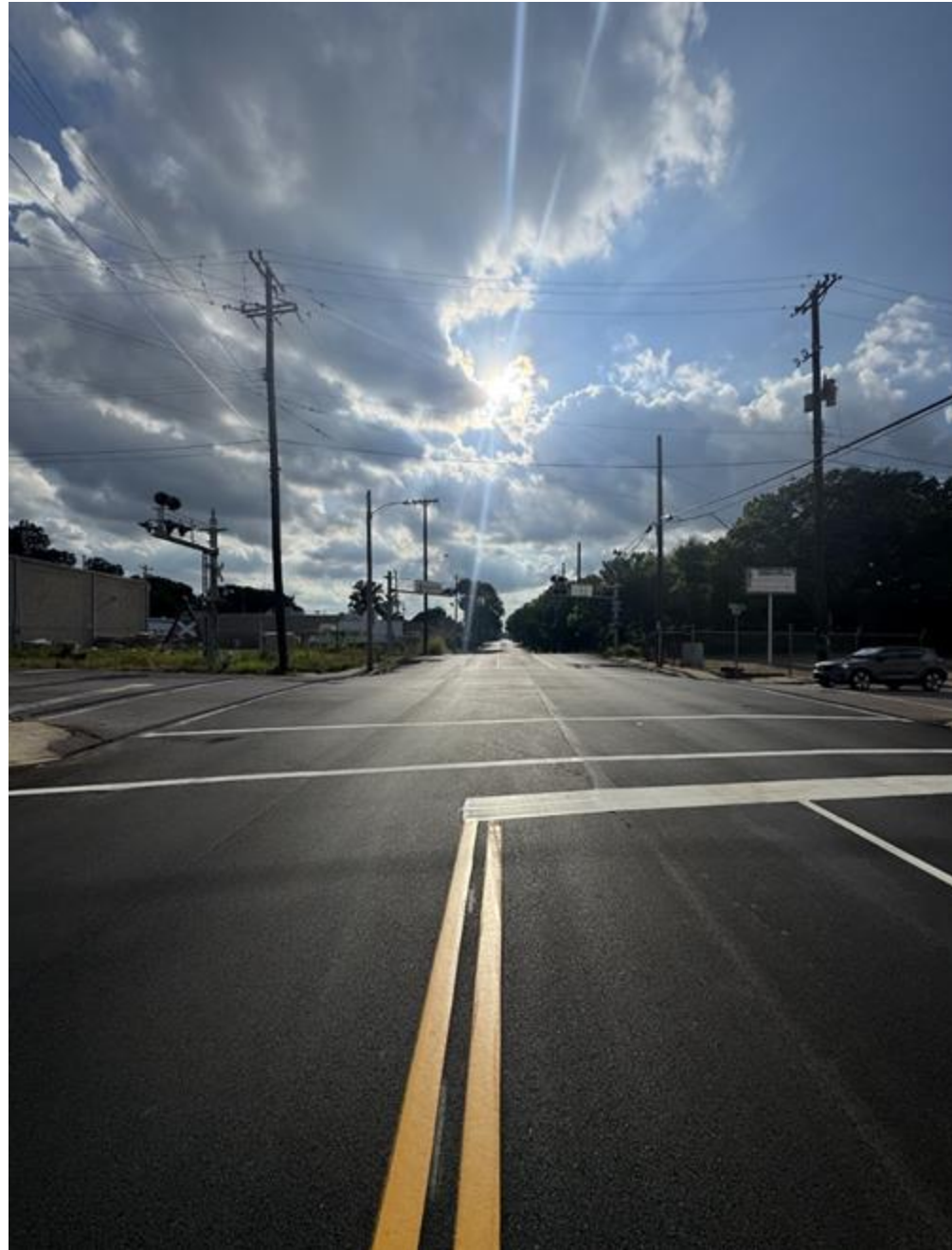




Overall Site Conditions

- You'll see a northbound and southbound lane on Walnut Street,.
- Vance Avenue has lanes for eastbound, westbound, and turning traffic.
- The intersection is an unsignalized 4-way stop with parallel line crosswalks along each leg
- Sharrows or signage for sharing the road between cyclists and drivers do not seem to be present
- Dedicated bike lanes are absent

Intersection View from East Vance



Intersection View from North Walnut





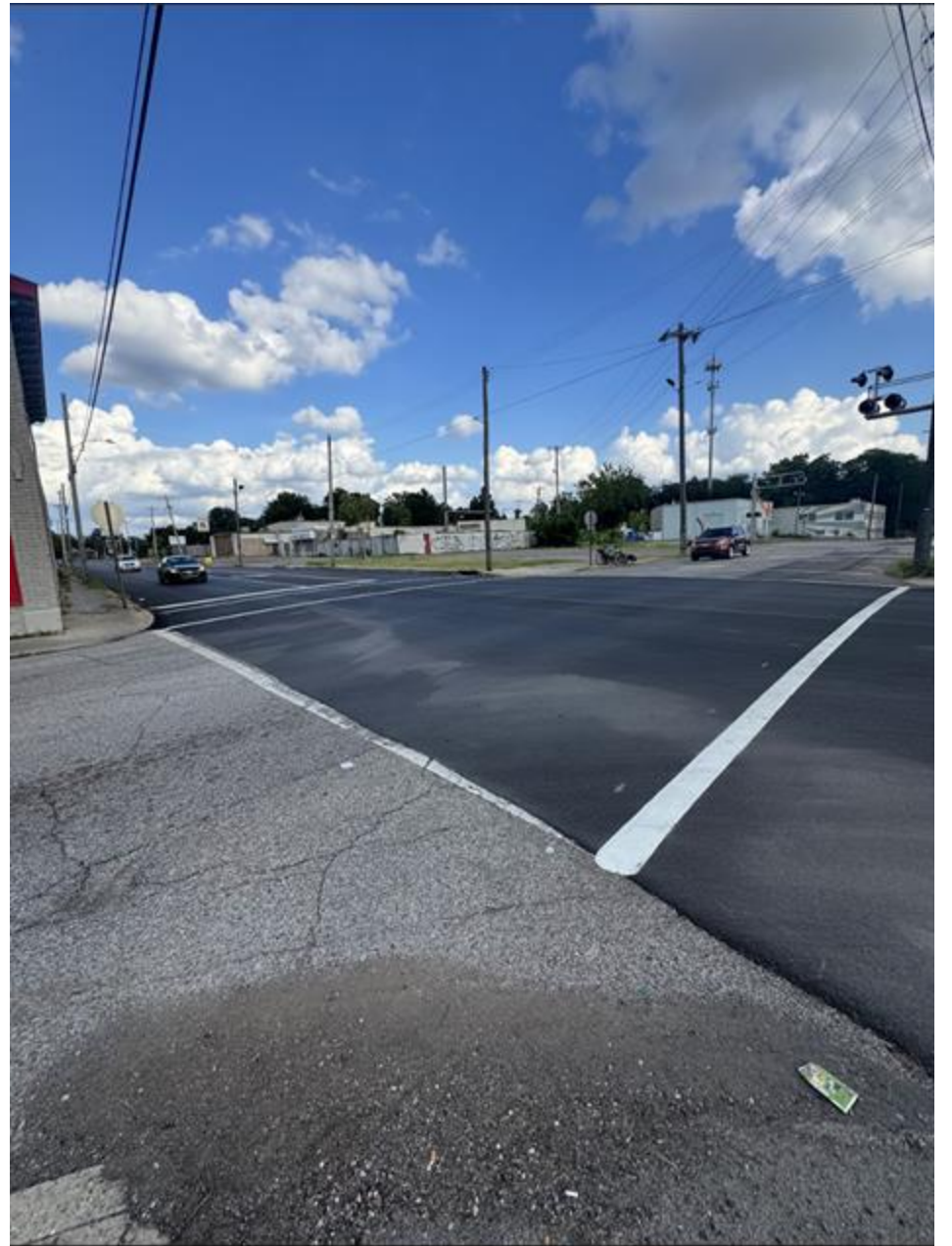
South Walnut looking North



West Vance looking East



Northeast Corner



Northwest Corner



Southeast Corner



Southwest Corner

Walnut St



5 Foot sidewalks on either side of North portion of Walnut
One 13 foot-wide drive lane; one 20 foot-wide drive lane
Width across pavement: 33 feet
Width with sidewalks & pavement - 43 feet.

Vance Ave



5 Foot sidewalks on either side of west portion of Vance
One 16 foot-wide drive lane; one 19 foot-wide drive lane
One 12 foot-wide turn lane
Width across pavement: 47 feet
Width with sidewalks & pavement - 57 feet.

Overall Site Conditions

- Variety of land uses including mixed-income housing, commercial buildings, and some vacant lots.
 - The street grid is traditional but walkability is disturbed by vacancies, non-continuous sidewalks, and fences.
- This neighborhood is surrounded by regional traffic infrastructure (US-78 is a few blocks south; interchanges for Interstate 240 and 55 are less than a mile away)
 - Route 79 and 51 are also north of the crash location
- There are multiple churches and schools nearby + MATA bus routes that run along Vance Avenue

Off The Rails - Art Line Installation

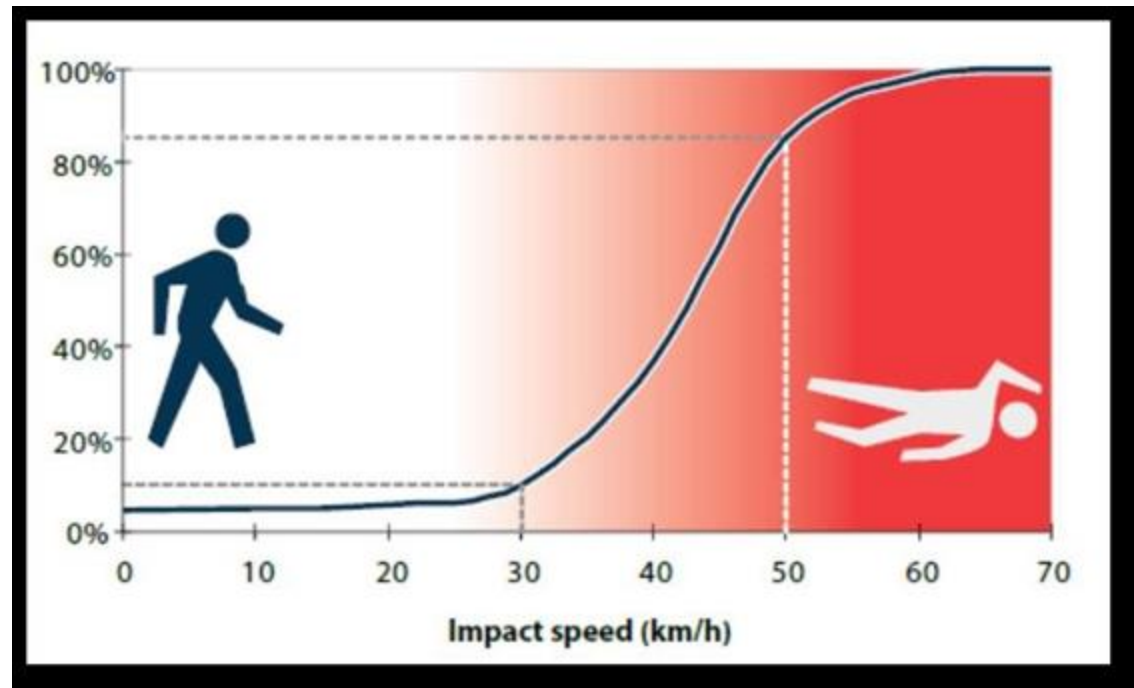
- Nearby local art studio Off The Walls Arts has ownership of the former railroad spur that runs across Walnut Street just south of the crash location
- Off The Walls Arts received some grant funding to turn the length of the Vane & Walnut trailhead into an art line
 - They have also received grant funding for crosswalks down the west side of Vance
- Intention is to implement a speed table and street murals on the section that is diagonal to the Vance/Walnut intersection (pending city engineering approval)

Overall Site Conditions

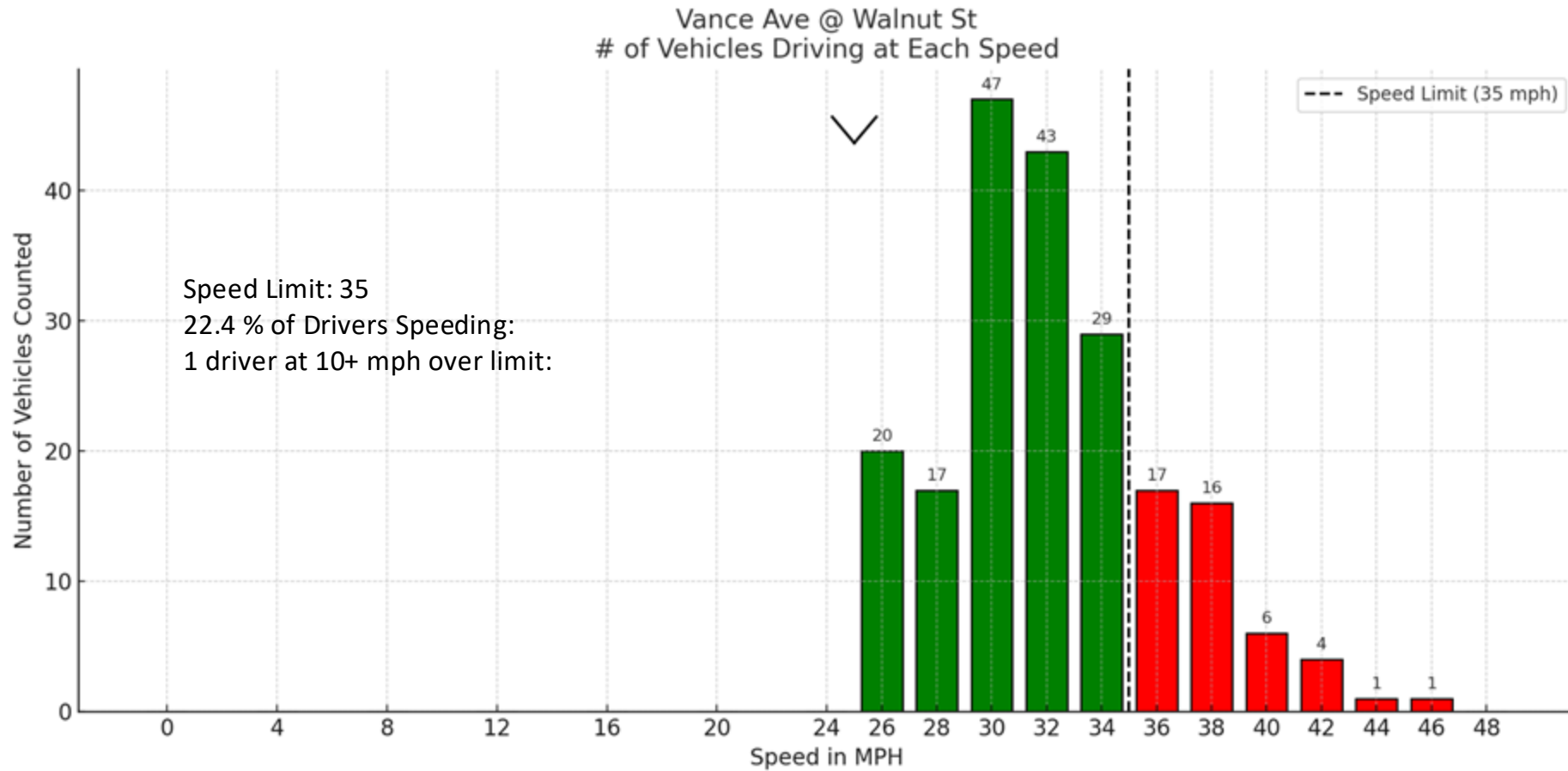
- Preliminary Speed Study indicates significant number of automobiles traveling at fatal speeds

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

-Insurance Institute for Highway Safety



Speed Data



201 cars tracked
85th percentile speed: 36 mph

Acknowledgements & Special Thanks

- Special thank you to our panelists Yvonne, Will, Robert, and Brendan!
- Our applicant Kelsey Huse and her colleague Jackson McNeil
- Community members, friends, colleagues who helped with preparations and attended today
- Strong Towns staff