

The Pedestrian and Safe Streets Act

On August 30th 2022, Tony Umile, an 84-year-old Longmont resident who routinely walked the sidewalks in his neighborhood, died Tuesday morning at the intersection of Third Avenue and Pratt Street after being struck by a car. (Daily Camera Article, By DANA CADEY and MITCHELL BYARS | mbyars@prairiemountainmedia.com, August 31, 2022)

While campaigning over the last several months, I have heard from members of our community consistently about pedestrian, cyclist and driving safety throughout Longmont, even prior to the tragic death of Mr. Umile. This ranges from people driving too fast on Mountain View Avenue to drag racing on Airport Road or a lack of crosswalks all over the city, resulting in a failure for drivers to stop for pedestrians. It should not take the loss of a beloved member of the Longmont community to snap us collectively into reality.

On my first meeting after being sworn into office I would propose, The Pedestrian and Safe Streets Act.

- Work with the city engineer to make safer roads for Longmont, including:
- Install pedestrian crossing lights locations on 17th Avenue as well as on Pace Street and other streets that have inconvenient crossing options.
- Install flashing crosswalk lights on all of the crosswalks on Main Street from 1st Avenue to 9th Avenue.
- Re-install the roundabouts on Mountain View Avenue at Harvard Street and Cornell Drive as well as other similar locations.
- Increase the number of neck-downs and pedestrian crosswalks along 3rd Avenue from Main Street to Hover Street.
- On Airport Road, place several roundabouts to stop the exhibition of speed/drag racing that takes place on Airport Road.
- Direct city staff to study city-wide speed limit reductions.
- Install red-camera lights on the 4 most dangerous and incident prone intersections.
- Review safety features to make walking to school safer for our children.
- Develop videos that emphasize pedestrian, cyclist and driver behaviors and show them on our cable access channel and link them to our city website.
 - Teaching pedestrians to make eye contact with drivers before they step off the curb.
 - Teaching cyclists to dismount if they are riding on the sidewalks and walk their bikes across crosswalks.
 - Reteach drivers about the most egregious driving offense and emphasize polite and safe driving practices.

How to pay for these community amenities:

- City Bond
- Audit city budgets and eliminate redundancies
- Increase development fees
- Explore sponsorship opportunities like our “Clean Road Programs”
- Add a safety fee to utilities bills
- Increase motor-vehicle violations tickets i.e. “Red-Light Cameras”

I am open to any and all of these ideas to make walking, riding and driving around Longmont safer for all our community members.