

August 1, 2019

To: Board Members of the Union Free School District of the Tarrytowns

When Americans talk about “school safety,” it means “guns.” Our District has installed new doors, hired guards and put students through anxiety inducing drills. The time and money spent is significant. As terrifying as this threat is, we have to admit, the likelihood of something happening is minuscule.

These efforts have distracted us from seeing and addressing the number one killer of school aged children: motor vehicles. (See table, right.)

There are two simple steps you can take that will dramatically improve safety on school grounds:



1) Morse School: Use the arrival procedure that was in place during the elevator construction. In this 2016 - 2017 period, people who drove kids to school parked on nearby streets and walked their kids to the door.

One improvement to this routine would be teachers' cars entering via the Washington St driveway during student arrival.

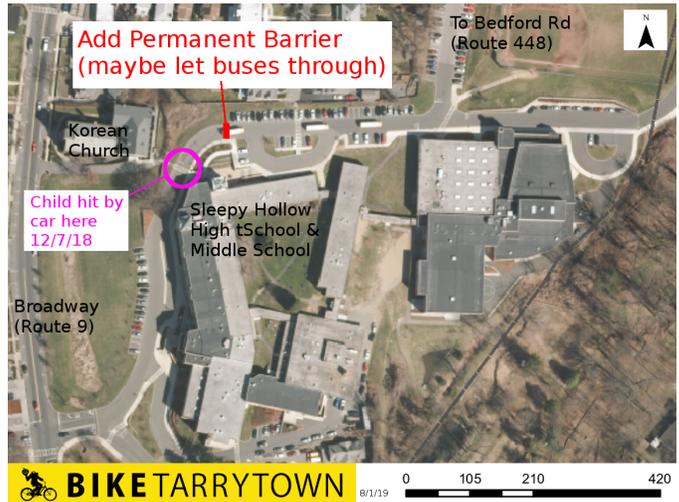
This excellent system was replaced in the 2018-19 school year, when the district let parents drive cars into the school driveway (see photo, left), which introduced several harms:

- cars blocking people on the sidewalk
- people walking can be hit by cars crossing the sidewalk
- children have to walk a gauntlet of pollution, causing life-long impacts
- traffic rose at the Beekman/Pocantico intersection, increasing risk at this crash prone location
- extra staff time diverted to managing cars rather than education

2) High School: On 12/7/18, a student using the crosswalk from the school's main door to the Korean Church was injured when a person driving didn't stop. On top of school traffic, the general public uses this school driveway as a shortcut from Broadway to Bedford Rd.

The solution is to place a permanent barrier in the driveway near the school's main door (see diagram, right). The barrier can be movable (for buses to get through) or fixed (for lower installation & maintenance costs).

This makes the Korean Church crosswalk car-free and permanently lowers overall vehicle volumes in the athletic field parking lot. This improves safety for students and people using the Old Croton Aqueduct.



10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths, United States 2017, All Races, Both Sexes
WISQARS, Produced By: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 Data Source: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Vital Statistics System
 Organized by:

Rank	Age Groups				
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19
1	Unintentional Suffocation 1,106	Unintentional Drowning 424	Unintentional MV Traffic 327	Unintentional MV Traffic 428	Unintentional MV Traffic 2,552
2	Homicide Unspecified 139	Unintentional MV Traffic 362	Unintentional Drowning 125	Suicide Suffocation 280	Homicide Firearm 1,667
3	Unintentional MV Traffic 90	Homicide Unspecified 129	Unintentional Fire/burn 94	Suicide Firearm 185	Suicide Firearm 1,110
4	Homicide Other Spec., classifiable 76	Unintentional Suffocation 110	Homicide Firearm 78	Homicide Firearm 126	Suicide Suffocation 1,030