

University Environment Committee
Draft Report 17.xx
Visibility at North Loop Road Pedestrian
Crossings

December 14, 2017

There are four pedestrian crossings on the Circle Road near the LIRR station. Each has a stop sign for vehicular traffic. We report here on one crossing that has the potential to be unsafe under certain conditions.

1 The Second Crossing

We count the crossings from the east. For a driver turning right from the North Entrance to the University, the crossing in question is the second crossing; for eastbound traffic it is the third stop sign starting with Gymnasium Rd. A view from the west is shown in Figure 1. The pedestrian path runs along the athletic fields to the north end of the Stadium lot (Figure 2). The path is heavily used by bicyclists; there is a Wolf Ride Bike Share station on the east side of the path.

As is clearly visible in the figures, there is a berm on the west side of the pedestrian path. This partially obstructs the visibility of approaching pedestrians to an eastbound vehicle driver. Note that the pedestrian in Figure 1 is partially obscured by the berm. In general, during daylight hours, and for foot traffic, the crossing is safe. During daylight hours vehicular drivers can see approaching bicycle/skateboard traffic irregardless speed. However, the crossing is potentially unsafe after dark for bicyclists or skateboarders, especially for those wearing dark clothing who do not slow down when approaching the crossing.

Exacerbating the danger is the high density of stop signs along the Circle Road, four within the 2100 feet from Joe Nathan Field to Gymnasium Road. Some drivers do not fully stop at all the crossings.



Figure 1: The view looking east from the bike path adjacent to the eastern end of the train station. The crossing is clearly marked.

2 Recommendations

A traffic calming device should be placed at the end of the pedestrian path to encourage bicyclists/skateboarders to slow down or dismount prior to reaching the crossing

3 Acknowledgements

All pictures were taken about at 2:45 PM EST on 13 December 2017.



Figure 2: The view looking south along the pedestrian path. The Wolf Ride Bike Share station is visible on the east side of the path behind the campus map. The raised berm is on the right (west).



Figure 3: The view looking east towards the crossing. This approximates the view that an eastbound driver will have when approaching the stop sign. The Wolf Ride Bike Share docks are hidden behind the berm.