

FATAL CRASH REVIEW

Location: New Hampshire Avenue (Route 650) and Elton Road
Accident Date/Time: Friday, January 15, 2021 at approximately 8:20 PM
Local Case No.: 210001908
Police District: District 3
Review Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Description of Crash:

The police preliminary investigation indicated that around 8:20 PM a silver Nissan, travelling southbound on New Hampshire Avenue, struck a pedestrian crossing the southbound lanes. The silver Nissan departed the scene, and the pedestrian was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Location and Site Description:

New Hampshire Avenue (Route 650) is classified as a principle arterial (other) major highway oriented north-south with a 40 MPH posted speed limit through the intersection. Elton Road is classified as a local business street. The intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and Elton Road is a signalized T-intersection. New Hampshire Avenue, through the intersection, is a six-lane divided roadway with a left-turn bay on the southbound approach and a right-turn auxiliary/drop lane on the northbound approach. Immediately upstream of the stop bar this lane serves as one of two receiving lanes for the signalized two-lane off ramp from I-495 westbound. Farther upstream this lane is the receiving lane for off ramp from I-495 eastbound. Elton Road is a wide two-lane undivided street. The approach to the intersection is two lanes, a left-turn only and a left/right turn. Sidewalks are present on all roadsides, and standard crosswalks are included across the Elton Road approach and northern New Hampshire Avenue leg. The intersection is located on the southern end of shopping center.

Site observations:

An on-site evaluation of the intersection was conducted on January 27, 2021 around 12:00 PM. The following was noted during the evaluation:

- **Road Geometry:** The intersection is located along a general curve on New Hampshire Avenue. Even so, sight distance around the intersection is adequate. Sight distance to the intersection along both New Hampshire Avenue approaches is approximately 500 feet, appropriate for a speed of 55 MPH. Elton Road is tangent to the intersection, with a general down grade.
- **Pavement markings:** Pavement markings were found to be in good condition and visible.
- **Signage:** Existing signing was found to be good condition, visible, and placed properly.
- **Pedestrian Facilities:** Five-foot sidewalks are located on all roadsides. Pedestrian ramps and crosswalks are compliant with current standards. All pedestrian push buttons were found to be functional and include audio feedback, though it is not verbal, beeping at different rates indicates

when a crossing is permissible. One noted issue was that the pedestrian crossing plaque for the push button to cross New Hampshire Avenue from the eastern side is backward. Also, during the field review several instances of pedestrians, including older and mobility impaired, were observed crossing New Hampshire Avenue outside the crosswalk during the green phase, taking refuge on the narrow median.

- **Transit:** Bus stops are located at the intersection along New Hampshire Avenue, and further bus stops are located approximately 500 feet north of the intersection, as well. During the field review the southbound bus stop was observed to have regular use.
- **Signals:** The signal heads at the intersection were observed to be functioning properly. The left turn from New Hampshire Avenue to Elton Road is permissive only.
- **Lighting:** Proper adequacy and operation could not be determined at the time of the field investigation. However, the MCDOT streetlight map indicated that lights around the intersection are functional with no reported outages or issues.
- **Drainage:** No evidence of pooling or drainage issues was observed.
- **Other Hazards:** A review of the reported crash history found 46 crashes related to the intersection over the last five years, about nine per year. Most crashes are rear end, same direction side swipe and other crash types typically associated with signalized intersections. Twelve crashes resulted in injuries, including another pedestrian crash on the Elton Road crossing. No other fatalities are reported.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

New Hampshire Avenue is maintained by the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA). MCDOT has the following recommendations:

- Due to the potential for older pedestrians and pedestrians with possible disabilities who use the crosswalk on New Hampshire Avenue, assess whether the crossing time should be extended to better permit these pedestrians to cross the seven lanes of New Hampshire Avenue.
- Correct the pedestrian-arrow plaque on the push button to remove possible crossing confusion.

Appendix A: Pictures



Picture 1: Looking north along New Hampshire Avenue.



Picture 2: Looking from the northeast quadrant across northern leg of New Hampshire Avenue.