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**WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IMPLEMENTS NEW TRAFFIC SIGNALING IMPORTANT TO DRIVERS AND PEDESTRIANS**

*New Changes are Better for Traffic Flow, But Potentially Dangerous to Unaware Pedestrians and Drivers*

**MORGANTOWN, W.Va.** -- Lead by Chairman Matthew Cross in Morgantown, the Pedestrian Safety Board implemented a change in traffic signaling systems for crosswalks around campus. It is important that city residents and students are informed on the changes. The two systems, concurrent and exclusive signaling, are applied depending on the traffic flow of the area.

In less congested areas downtown, the “exclusive” system is in use. When a pedestrian requests to cross the street, all vehicle traffic is directed to stop. This allows walkers to safely use the crosswalk. The intersection of Spruce St. and Walnut St. for example. There is less traffic from both drivers and pedestrians in this area, therefore the exclusive system is put in place.

Areas with heavier traffic flow, the intersection of High Street and Willey Street by Panera for example, utilize the “concurrent” system. When an individual requests to cross the street, the pedestrian signal is turned on simultaneously with the green light to vehicle traffic. This way heavy traffic is able to continue to flow if there is a lack of pedestrians at peak time, which is 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. during weekdays.

Drivers who are unaware of the concurrent system may not realize that pedestrians have the right of away and fail to yield or see that the crossing light is on, which could potentially cause tragic results.

Pedestrians should also be cautious of the change and becomeaware of their surroundings when using these crosswalks. To encourage safety precautions, Cross recommends that pedestrians stay clear of distractions such as cell phones and wear bright or reflective clothing when walking at night.

“Drivers and pedestrians need to learn to communicate, cooperatively,” said Cross regarding the new systems that could be potentially confusing to those who are not educated on the change.

The Pedestrian Safety Board works to provide protection to the mass number of pedestrians in Morgantown, as well as educating both drivers and walkers on cooperating together for a safer environment. The Pedestrian Safety Board’s new slogan, “Safe, Seen, Sure” represents their goal of providing safety of Morgantown’s citizens.

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For more information, visit [www.morgantownwv.gov/297/Pedestrian-Safety-Board](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/297/Pedestrian-Safety-Board) or contact Chairman Matthew Cross at crossnyc@hotmail.com.