

Pedestrians: As Safe as Drivers

Feeling the risk of crossing a pedestrian lane? Well, it should not have to be that way. With the gas prices increasing and constant traffic jams, some people would rather walk. Being cautious and looking left and right will probably get you across safely. But in some cases, it is not always that easy. Careless drivers have the tendency to speed pass a crosswalk, not even glancing if pedestrians are present. In some instances, careless pedestrians cross the road unaware of oncoming cars. Serious injuries and even death have resulted from the disregard by both pedestrians and drivers.

I, for one, am very cautious when crossing the road. I remember to always look left and right. The most important safety precaution when crossing, is to always have eye contact with impending drivers. Communication is key when it comes to crossing safely. These precautions have been taught by parents who stress on my safety. Some people who are apt to cross the road without taking these precautions, have the uncertainty of injury or fatality. Drivers also seem to forget about pedestrians. Crosswalk signs are usually ignored which causes them to seem obscured.

My solution requires a pedestrian light adjacent to crosswalks without stoplights. The pedestrian light will have a flat screen and will double the size of the existing pedestrian lights we use today. It will be equipped with LED lighting that can be highly visible for drivers during the night and in the day as well. On the post, a button will be emplaced to signal the sign. The signal of a pedestrian will show the words, " Stop for pedestrian." The signal of no pedestrians will show the word, " clear." These pedestrian lights are geared to ensure the protection of pedestrians when crossing the road.

The way to obtain funds for this project will be to sell the old pedestrian signs for scrap metal and reusing the poles of the lights. Recycling the old signs would be renewable and cost-effective. In addition to recycling the old signs, advertisement meters would be fixed near crosswalks to serve as fundraisers. The advertisement meters will insist on the proposed project of new pedestrian lights and have coin and dollar slots.

The new, digital signs shall be implanted alongside every crosswalk in Hawaii and hopefully all around the world in the distant future. Like Clarence T.C. Ching, I hope to improve life in Hawaii, taking it one step at a time, literally. His selfless service through courage and deliberate effort towards others inspired many. His constant donations improved the quality of life with new housings and buildings. With my solution I hope to improve life by securing protection for pedestrians. In that, pedestrians should be as safe as drivers.