



## Downtown Decatur Neighbors

June 12, 2015

David Junger  
Assistant City Manager – Public Works  
City of Decatur  
2635 Talley Street  
Decatur, GA 30030

Dear Mr. Junger:

I write on behalf of the Board of the Downtown Decatur Neighbors to request that the City reinstall the crosswalk on West Ponce de Leon Avenue between Fairview Avenue and Ponce de Leon Place.

Developers of the 315 Ponce building created a crosswalk between Fairview and Ponce Place to address pedestrian disruption caused by construction. The crosswalk was heavily used and helped meet significant pedestrian demand traveling among office, residential and retail destinations along Ponce. Despite its heavy use, the crosswalk was removed when the sidewalk in front of 315 Ponce was complete.

The block between Fairview and Ponce Place is a long one, in excess of 700 feet. National standards for walkable communities recommend block lengths in the range of 300-600 feet; Washington State's walkable community guidelines adopt just that standard. When blocks exceed that length, walkable communities incorporate mid-block crosswalks, exemplified in several other locations along Ponce.

*Mid-block crosswalks help to improve walkability by providing greater access to areas for pedestrians, while limiting the number of pedestrians crossing without a crosswalk. They also can help to decrease automobile speeds along blocks because of the presence of pedestrians. It is recommended the crosswalks be placed every 100 feet, and in some areas this may mean the addition of mid-block crosswalks.*

Design Guidelines for Walkable Communities  
Kevin McNally, Niehoff Studios (January 29, 2010)

We are fortunate to live in a city that prioritizes walkability and pedestrian safety, so much so that it has created a special pedestrian zone in downtown Decatur. The existence of a special pedestrian zone reflects the City's recognition of the importance of pedestrian safety and mobility to a vibrant urban center. The existence of a mid-block crosswalk between Fairview and Ponce Place is consistent with the vision for Downtown Decatur and our special pedestrian zone. Existing pedestrian demand and national crosswalk standards justify its reinstallation. We understand that residents of 335 Ponce, among those who most benefited from the crosswalk, already have asked that it be reinstalled. For all these reasons, the board of Downtown Decatur Neighbors asks that the City reinstall the crosswalk.

On behalf of the board, I thank you for your consideration and hope that you will look favorably upon our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Dusenbury". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G" and a stylized "D".

George Dusenbury  
President

Cc: Decatur City Commission  
Peggy Merris