



Downtown Decatur Neighbors

Requested Crosswalk Improvements

Buddy Harrell
Chair, Planning & Development Committee
bharrell326@gmail.com

Site-Specific Comments

1. Have we explored adjusting the signal at the intersections of Commerce Drive and (1) West Ponce, (2) Clairmont, and (3) Church to allow for a time when all lights are red and only pedestrians can cross? Have we examined a similar solution for the Trinity and North McDonough intersection?
2. There should be handicapped parking in front of the Oliver House along Commerce.
3. Ponce should be emphasized as Decatur's Main Street and a pedestrian corridor by having regular mid-block crosswalks. Keep entire corridor slow and pedestrian-focused. There should be flashing (HAWK) signals at the mid-block crossings (1) between Renaissance and Town Square, and (2) where the crosswalk is reinstated in front of Jimmy Johns.
4. Mid-block crosswalk on Sycamore would provide access to the library and recreation center, especially for seniors and others using canes or walkers. Block is more than 500' long.
5. There is no button to push to get a walk signal across Howard Avenue at the intersection with Commerce.
6. There is a need to improve the pedestrian crossings at the railroad track. We understand that the City is addressing this item.

General Comments

- Pedestrians should not have to press the button for the walk signal to come on. When the traffic light is green in a particular direction, the walk signal should come on automatically.
- There should be longer crossing times to accommodate pedestrians with walkers, canes and wheelchairs.
- There should be no parking within a certain distance (20'?) on either side of a crosswalk in order to increase pedestrian visibility.
- How does crosswalk maintenance work? Is there regularly scheduled painting and other maintenance? When will the red crosswalks be fixed?
- Have we checked into audible countdown timers, like in Savannah? Does American with Disability Act require?
- 315 Building entrance/exit onto West Ponce is a challenge. Drivers cannot see West Ponce traffic in either direction from behind crosswalk, so they roll through it.
- At the 4-way stop at the corner of Trinity & Electric, it is difficult to see the entire sidewalk.
- Decatur should implement a pilot program like Seattle, where they keep flags in buckets on either end of crosswalks. Pedestrians take the flag and wave it to alert drivers that they are going to cross, carry the flag held aloft as they cross, and then deposit the flag in the bucket on the other side.

Notes on Mid-Block Crosswalks

- West Ponce between Ponce Place and Fairview is about 600' long. Jimmy John's and the CD store support the crosswalk; there was no opposition among businesses surveyed.
- Library and Recreation Center block of Sycamore is more than 500' long.
- Church between Commerce and Ponce is more than 700' long.
- Clairmont between Commerce and Ponce is more than 750' long.
- Commerce between West Ponce and Clairmont is 1100' long. There will be 300 homes across Commerce from the shopping center. Road diet will provide great opportunity for installing mid-block crosswalk.
- Commerce between Church and North Candler Street is more than 600' long. Requested crosswalk is to improve access to Kroger.