

Brighton resident: Girl getting hit on bike was ‘horrifying experience’

Experience

Woman who saw crash attended safety meeting

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Rochester Democrat and Chronicle USA TODAY NETWORK

After a 12-year-old girl was hit while riding her bicycle to Twelve Corners Middle School last week, a handful of people attended Brighton’s Public Safety Commission meeting Tuesday morning with concerns about the accident.

One of those people? The woman who stopped to let the girl cross.

Jacqueline Navia of Brighton was taking her 13-year-old son to school last Thursday morning when a girl on a bicycle started to cross the street in front of her. She slammed on the brakes, not realizing that the light was green.

A car that was approaching from the opposite direction hit the girl before she made it to the other side.

“I didn’t even get a chance to look at the light,” Navia said. “And by that time, the SUV doing, you know — clipping along, hit her. It was a horrifying experience.”

At the meeting, held in Brighton’s Town Hall, the crash became the primary topic of conversation. The accident, which sent the unidentified middle schooler to Strong Memorial Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, happened near the intersection of Torrington Drive and Monroe Avenue around 7:30 a.m. last Thursday morning.

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Jacqueline Navia of Brighton was taking her son to school on Sept. 13 when she stopped at a green light to let a 12-year-old girl on her bicycle cross the street. The girl, a student at Twelve Corners Middle School, was hit by another car while crossing. GEORGIE SILVAROLE/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

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Torrington serves as a quick cutthrough for drivers getting from Monroe to Elmwood Avenue — something residents say has been a dangerous problem for years.

Brighton Police Chief Mark Henderson discussed data collected earlier this month. A lot of other elements played a part in the collision last week, Henderson said.

The intersection of Monroe Avenue with Brooklawn and Torrington drives is a little funky. There’s a light, but Torrington and Brooklawn don’t line up perfectly across Monroe, and a driver has to curve a little to one side to cross Monroe’s four lanes of traffic.

Around 7:30 a.m., when the crash occurred, the student was on her bicycle. The light was green for drivers traveling from Torrington to Brooklawn, and vice versa, across Monroe, Henderson said. Navia stopped at the green light to let the student cross the street. A second driver, coming from Torrington, crossed Monroe and hit the student as she was riding her bike across Brooklawn in the crosswalk, parallel to Monroe.

Navia’s automatic response was to slam on the brakes as soon as she saw the girl coming toward the road.

“Your child is my child, and when that child was hit, I felt every emotion that any parent would feel,” Navia said.

Navia said she attended the meeting to take responsibility for her role in the situation, and to thank the Brighton Police Department for their commitment to making the area safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.

“We all would like to remedy this situation,” Navia said. “I think everyone in here has their heart in this and really wants the best resolution to protect the kids.”

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