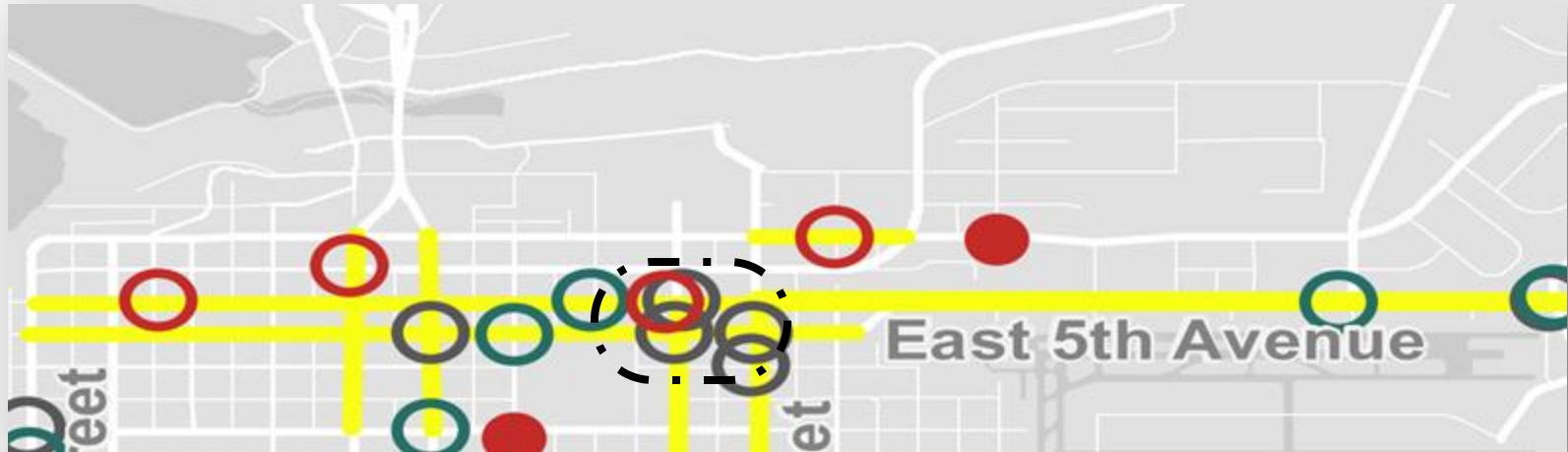




Anchorage Pilot Walk Audit 8/22/2022

## Why this location?

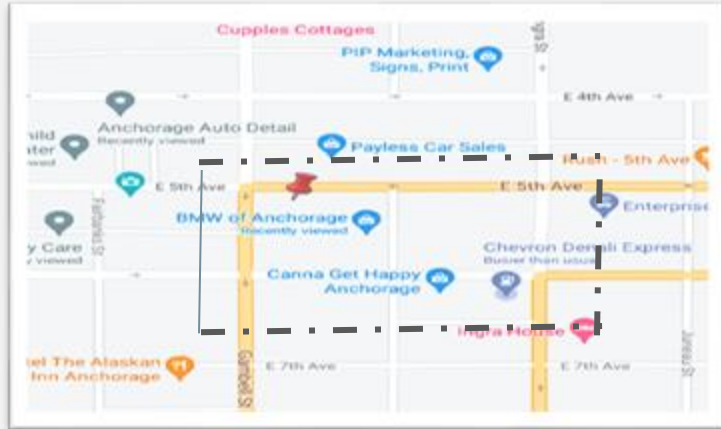
Based on the Anchorage Vision Zero 2019 Annual Report the most pedestrian deaths and severe pedestrian injuries in the municipality of Anchorage occurred close to the selected area. Our Walk Audit goal was to document problems we found, prioritize, and find solutions that can be implemented to improve pedestrian safety. In the image below severe pedestrian injuries are indicated by the red ring, severe auto crashes are the green rings, the dashed line shows the walk audit location.



# Anchorage Pilot Walk Audit 8/22/2022

## TRAFFIC, TRAFFIC, Traffic

Close up of the area covered in the Walk Audit



## **Our Observations:**

- When the light on 5th at Gambell is green all the traffic moves very fast, both those turning left on Gambell and those travelling west into downtown. When the traffic is moving on the roads the movement and vibration can be felt on the sidewalk (particularly when Semis and Double Axles pass.)
- There is only one small speed limit sign on each block covered in th the walk audit.
- The speed limit sign on 5th is obscured by a tree branch.
- Most of the crosswalks in the block audited need to be repainted.
- There is no crosswalk or pedestrian signal on the Ingra side crossing 5th which means pedestrians most likely cross where and when they wish.
- Pedestrian crossing time varies between crosswalks observed. Frequently there is not enough time for pedestrians to cross safely.
- Pedestrians navigate many obstructions in the area covered. Navigating the sidewalk safely in a wheelchair, scooter or walker is challenging and sometimes impossible without entering the roadway.

## General comments on this area:

- The area is primarily commercial
- There is frequently a high volume of traffic.
- In general, having multiple lanes of traffic increases the speed travelled.
- Large vehicles such as Semis, Double Axles and Buses require a larger turning radius increasing the challenge for pedestrians crossing the road.
- The blocks covered during the walk audit exemplify a road designed primarily for vehicular traffic. This is the intersection of the Glenn and Seward Highways - the two busiest highways in Alaska. There are frequent crashes of vehicle vs. pedestrians, vehicle vs. bicycle and vehicle vs. vehicle.



## Considerations for Improvement - Slow Down Traffic



West of the audit location 5th Ave. transitions from highway to the main road that leads downtown. Add at least one compelling sign warning of increased pedestrian traffic



Increase the number and visibility of speed limit signs



Periodically set up portable digital signs that display the speed of traffic. All four streets observed during the audit could benefit from this.



## Improve the Safety of Sidewalks



Improve maintenance of vegetation and bushes in the area.



Remove sidewalk obstructions or extend sidewalk to compensate allowing safe navigation for all pedestrians.



**Remove sidewalk obstructions or expand the sidewalk allowing safe navigation for all pedestrians.**



6th &  
Hyder



6th & Ingra



Gambell  
and 6th



North side of 5th  
near Ingra



## Repaint current crosswalks:



Many of the crosswalks need fresh paint. Winter presents still more challenges for pedestrians, when crosswalks are often not visible due to snow and ice. Also, in winter, snow is plowed on sidewalks, daylight is scarce and weather further reduces pedestrian visibility.

## Consider crosswalk solutions that get noticed and can help slow down traffic!

Crosswalk Painted in 3D



Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB)



## Anchorage Pilot Walk Audit 8/22/2022



Post Walk Audit accident:



On 9/09/2022 at 6AM a bicyclist was in a collision with a car at the intersection of Gambell St. and E. 5th Avenue.



Unfortunately, the bicyclist was brought to the hospital with what officers described as “life threatening injuries.”



The bicyclist was traveling west on 5th and reportedly crossed Gambell when the “do not walk” sign displayed. A white sedan was travelling south on Gambell with a green light and did not stop to render aid to the cyclist. The police have asked the public to aid in identifying the vehicle.

Citation:

<https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/anchorage/2022/09/09/bicyclist-badly-hurt-in-collision-with-vehicle-near-downtown-anchorage/>

# Age Friendly Anchorage

## Anchorage Pilot Walk Audit Team

**Mary Dean Broussard**

Anchorage Age Friendly Lead

**Jim Bailey**

Anchorage Commission on Aging

**Madeline Holdorf, State President**

AARP Alaska

**Katie Severin**

AARP Alaska ASD Comms



[AARP.org/AgeFriendly](https://www.aarp.org/AgeFriendly)