

STOP FOR ME

EVERY CORNER • IT'S THE LAW

Pedestrian Safety Event Summaries (2)

May 19, 2016

Rice St. & Cook Ave.

Lexington Ave & E. Como Lake Dr.

The Stop For Me campaign continued to conduct its pedestrian safety events. On May 19th, police and community members participated in 2 pedestrian safety events. The weather was warm, dry and extremely nice! Participating District Councils included District 6 (North End) and District 10 (Como Community Council).

Rice St. & Cook Ave.

The first event was conducted at Rice St & Cook from 3:00-5:00pm with district 6 (North End) community members and police. Council Member Amy Brendmoen was present for this event. Officers and volunteers made contact with several pedestrians and bikers conducting general education, and advising them on tips to safely cross the street. During the event, **Police Officers conducted 29 traffic stops, issued 26 citations to vehicles who failed to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk and 18 other citations. 3 warnings were given to drivers who failed to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk.**

Note: St. Paul Public Works was able to install pedestrian centerline signs at 6 intersections along Rice Street within blocks of our event (Rose, Jessamine, Magnolia, Cook, Lawson and Hatch). Yet, even with all the extra warnings, drivers were still not paying attention to pedestrians.

Lexington Ave. & E. Como Lake Dr.

The second event was conducted at Lexington & E. Como Lake Drive from 5:30 – 7:30pm with district 10 (Como Community Council) community members and police. Council Member Amy Brendmoen and her family were able to participate in this event also. There appeared to be a high compliance rate at this intersection, but it was very busy with pedestrians and bikers who were actively using St. Paul's great park system. **Police Officers conducted 18 traffic stops, issued 15 citations to vehicles who failed to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk and 7 other citations. 1 warning was given to drivers who failed to yield to pedestrians in crosswalk.** Police officers issued multiple "I got Caught" tickets to several kids who were observed in the park riding their bike wearing a helmet. This ticket allowed them to get a free Dairy Queen ice cream cone!

Enforcement Summary

Based upon logs by the 7 officers, the following enforcement statistics were obtained (All 2 events – All Data Collected):

Total Officers (All Funding Sources)	7
Total Traffic Stops	47
Fail to Yield to Pedestrian Citations	41
Other Citations	25
Warning: FTY to Ped in crosswalk	4

Event Debrief Notes

Below are notes and thoughts from volunteers and participating officers that were brought up in the event debrief session.

Debriefing #1: Rice & Cook

- It's very dangerous to step into the roadway, very nervous and scared to do so
- Some people honked as a warning to pedestrians against cars that were going around in the 2nd lane.
- St. Paul Public Works and police cars that were not involved in the event all stopped for pedestrians.
- Asked about getting flags, this seems to draw even more attention to the crossing pedestrians
- Suggested a 3 lane conversion to reduce chances of a crash
- Suggested changing road into 2 lanes (1 each way) and then having turn lanes at intersections so parking could be spared for the businesses on Rice Street.
- Many comments about it being difficult and stressful to cross all 4 lanes of traffic
- There were lots of cars going around stopped cars in the outside and or inside lanes
- When cars stopped on Rice Street, the assumption is that it is turning...not always the case, very dangerous. Driving down Rice can be like playing a video game where people are switching from right to left as they travel to get through faster, causing more danger to pedestrians and bikes.
- Surprised at the number of people that didn't stop
- As the event went on, commuter traffic increased (vs. neighborhood drivers) and they seemed less likely to stop.
- Messaging by police: remind drivers that construction on 35E is nearly done and they should start using that to commute instead of local streets.
- Awesome to see all the "stop for ped" centerline signs along Rice Street, Thank you St. Paul Public Works!

- Request the police officers in the patrol cars attend the safety briefing and also the debriefing. Provides for good community interaction and additional input. These events provide for a positive interaction between police and the community, more cops at the briefings will increase this.

Debriefing #2 Como & Lexington:

- Police cars being lined up may have slowed things down and increased compliance
- Does the police racing through the intersection to get violators create more risk? Are there other options, such as flagging or perhaps positioning further away and using radio communication instead
- Seemed that if 1 didn't stop, others kept going through also
- Volunteers got closer and closer to intersection as the night went on, perhaps attracting more attention and increasing compliance or slowing traffic
- Make sure the crosswalk is painted regularly, maintained. The city should keep them up and residents should use the St. Paul connect application from the app store to report deficiencies.
- Amazed at how many people did comply and stop for pedestrians. Some even observed the pedestrians on the sidewalk approach and stopped before legally required.
- Note: There was one person who came up to complain about the event. He was not cited, but still felt that this was not something that should be being done. He was upset about the stopping distance and that we were "F'ing up traffic" by crossing all the time. I invited him to watch for a while, which quickly took the argument away. He was still not supportive when he left, but far less angry.