

## **Pedestrian Safety Task Force Update**

**Meeting Date:** August 18, 2025

**Location:** Zoom

### **Pedestrian Safety Task Force**

Present: Councilwoman Hillary Goldberg, Township Manager Jaclyn Hashmat, Lt. Charles Antinore of the Teaneck Police Traffic Bureau, and Lisa Lee of EZ Ride – met on August 18th to review progress and next steps in Teaneck's ongoing

On **Wednesday, May 28, 2025**, the Pedestrian Safety Task Force, with EZ Ride and Teaneck Police held a Pedestrian Community Engagement Event **at the Rodda Center**, where residents filled the room and spoke directly about their concerns, from speeding to lighting, sidewalks, and pedestrian safety around schools. We got really meaningful feedback.

The feedback was so strong that it caught the attention of the **Deputy Attorney General of the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety**, who took note and watched the event via Zoom. He sent an email after I want to read, because it just says a lot about our residents and they should be proud.

"I watched Wednesday's Teaneck town hall via Zoom. You did a magnificent job. Wow, these were good citizens that showed up. The way you and your team set this up can be a model for all similar events going forward. The information and suggestions were clear and to-the-point, and it was evident that the folks who showed up appreciated their time to address Councilwoman Goldberg, the Teaneck Police, you and the EZ Ride team about their concerns. It also shows that the residents of Teaneck realize and appreciate the work that is being done to make them safe. Great job to all involved and keep up the good work!"

## **Plaza Demonstration Project**

- As part of **Teaneck's Pedestrian Safety Campaign** with EZ Ride, NJTPA, and Bergen County, the Township will launch a **temporary curb extension demonstration project** in the Plaza area on Sunday, September 28, 2025 at 10:00 AM (Ayers Court, Queen Anne Road, and Palisade Avenue). : Residents are encouraged to **join and help paint** the curb extensions, turning safety into a hands-on community effort. Curb extensions will remain for at least 4 weeks and up to 8 weeks. During this period, traffic flow and pedestrian safety will be studied, with pre- and post-surveys capturing resident feedback. Police officers will be present to ensure a safe work zone. Work will move corner by corner, so the entire intersection will not need to be closed at once. Advance signage and outreach will be provided to businesses and residents, with detour information shared ahead of time to minimize disruption.

### **What's a Curb Extension?**

For those who may not be familiar:

- **Shortens crossings:** Pedestrians have less distance to cover, making it safer to cross wide roads.
- **Improves visibility:** Drivers can clearly see people waiting to cross, and pedestrians can see approaching cars without peeking around parked vehicles.
- **Slows cars naturally:** Narrower roadways send drivers a strong signal to reduce speed, especially when turning.
- **Creates safer waiting space:** Pedestrians stand further into drivers' line of sight without stepping into traffic.

## Speed Study on Queen Anne Road

In June and July, EZ Ride partnered with the Teaneck Police Traffic Bureau to install a speed radar sign on **Queen Anne Road**. The study alternated between “stealth mode” and visible mode, capturing both driver behavior and traffic volumes.

This data will help guide decisions about enforcement and infrastructure on one of Teaneck’s busiest corridors. Lt. Antinori noted that while most drivers were found to be within the speed limit, the sheer volume of cars on Teaneck’s busiest roads means that speeding still occurs often enough for residents to notice and feel unsafe.

CW Goldberg raised the concern that residents sometimes feel dismissed when studies say there is “no issue,” even though their life experience tells them otherwise. Both the data and residents lived experiences matter, and the Task Force agreed that this balance needs to be communicated clearly.

Lt. **Antinori** encouraged residents not to let their concerns go unheard. If you have a question about traffic or a speed study on your street, **call the Traffic Bureau directly**. Officers can:

- Walk you through the speed study data in real time.
- Explain what the numbers mean and their limitations.
- Let you know whether enforcement or engineering follow-up is possible.

He stressed the importance of this direct **dialogue**. Too often, residents tell him they have “been complaining for years,” but it is the first time the Traffic Bureau is hearing about the issue. A direct call ensures that concerns are **logged, reviewed, and acted on timely and appropriately**.

## **What’s Next**

- **September:** Plaza demonstration project installation.
- **October:** Senior pedestrian safety program at the Rodda Center.

- **December:** Evening community webinar on pedestrian safety.
- **February 2026:** Next in-person pedestrian safety town hall.