

March 4, 2024

Members of the House and Senate,

I am writing in support of HF 3858 and SF 3993. As an elementary school crossing guard at a busy intersection in Rochester, I experience dangerous conditions every day I work. My corner is located on a hill, between 4-way stops one block in each direction. It is directly adjacent to the school. Cars coming from the stop up the hill (east) don't want to slow down and frequently cannot see the children waiting to cross because a line of cars coming from the bottom of the hill (west) is waiting for the stop sign at the top of the hill. I was nearly hit two weeks ago and had to grab a student and pull them back a month ago. In our crossing guard training, we are taught that children do not have the same spatial skills adults have at judging speed and distance. They might think "oh, I'll be able to make it" or, "the driver will see me and stop." Distracted drivers drive through the intersection when I am entering or exiting the intersection every single day.

People in cars are also forced into dangerous maneuvers. Vehicles that are picking up and dropping off kids are often waiting on the street to the north, trying to turn east or west onto the busier street. I have occasionally stopped traffic on the busier street to let these cars out. The cars trying to turn on to the smaller north-south street are blocked by the cars waiting to turn off the small street. Again the speed drivers are going up and down the hill makes these turns dangerous and while drivers may be looking for other cars, they don't notice children (or me, in a bright vest with a flashing stop sign) crossing the road.

Slowing down this stretch of road makes sense for both cars and pedestrians. Giving the city the power to adjust the speed without the time and financial burden of a traffic study allows the city to make adjustments where obvious changes are needed. Please consider forwarding these bills to the larger House and Senate so cities are empowered to make safety changes for all users of the roads.

Thank You

Reverend Amanda Larsen  
Rochester, MN