

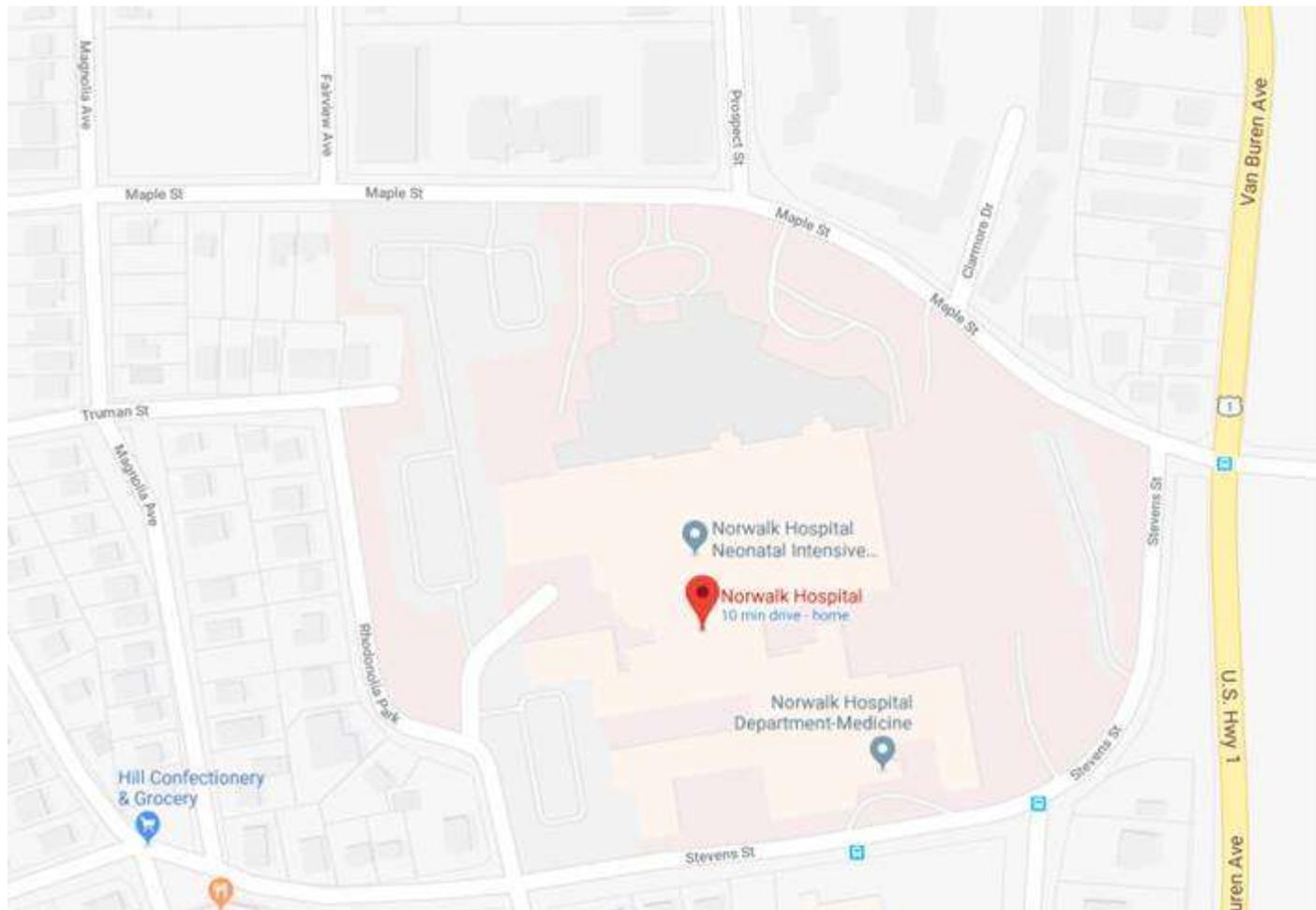
## **Background**

The [Norwalk Bike Walk Commission](#) supports bicycling and walking as safe, accessible, and sustainable forms of transportation and recreation that increase the City of Norwalk's livability and economic vitality, and improve public and environmental health.

Nancy Rosett, the Commission Chairperson and DPW were contacted in October of 2017 by Dr. Eunice Kang of Norwalk Hospital.

The problem was that over 90 medical students working for Norwalk Hospital to complete their Medical Residency live across Maple St. and cross it daily. A key crossing point is Prospect St., which is perpendicular to Maple.

Dr. Kang received complaints that the safety of the Residents was in jeopardy considering there is no crosswalk or appropriate signage on Maple Street.



## **The Commission's Recommendation:**

- The City ought to consider
  - Installing a crosswalk at Prospect and Maple Street and one at the flat of Maple at Fairview Ave.
  - Adding stop or yield signs or other appropriate signage to slow traffic
  - Putting a small island at the intersection to provide an area of refuge while crossing for pedestrians and to decrease vehicle travel speeds

- Narrowing the travel lanes because research shows that narrow travel lanes decrease vehicle travel speeds and improve safety

### **Steps Taken**

November 8th: Met at Hospital to discuss the situation and have a walking meeting to evaluate the area up close

In addition to Nancy Rosett, Chairperson of the Bike/Walk Commission, the following attended the meeting:

DPW Employees

- Bruce Chimento - Director
- Mike Yeosock - Assistant Principal Engineer
- Fred Eshraghi - Traffic Engineer

Norwalk Hospital

- Eunice Kang, MD, FACP - Program Director, Internal Medicine Residency
- Frank Zullo - former Norwalk mayor and life Trustee of the Norwalk Hospital, attorney Tierney, Zullo, Flaherty & Murphy, P.C.

### **Outcome**

- The following revisions and installation were done very quickly by DPW
  - The 15-foot travel lanes were narrowed to 10 feet by painting shoulder stripes where none existed before. Research shows that narrow travel lanes slow traffic and improve safety. This is especially important in a hospital zone considering its nature of service in addition to the high volume of pedestrians crossing Maple St.
  - It was determined that due to the steep grade of the hill on Maple St., regulations do not allow for an ADA compliant cross walk. As an alternative, 2 cross walks were painted, and signs installed:
    - Across Prospect, parallel to Maple
    - Across Fairview, parallel to Maple
- The Commission appreciates how quickly DPW responded to the needs of pedestrians and believes these changes to Maple St. will improve pedestrian safety for all.
- The Commission invites all members of the public to contact the Commission at [norwalkbikewalk@gmail.com](mailto:norwalkbikewalk@gmail.com) with any concerns related to pedestrian and bicycle safety in Norwalk.