



Strong Towns

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Crash Analysis Studio: Hyattsville convenes panel to investigate fatal traffic crash

[HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND] —Members of the Hyattsville community are launching a Crash Analysis Studio to discover the transportation design factors that contributed to the death of 61-year-old Helen Jorgensen. A driver struck and killed Jorgensen with a car on the 5600 block of Ager Road in Hyattsville on August 13, 2021.

The studio will take place virtually on Friday, March 3, at 2 p.m. Panelists include Hyattsville residents, Hyattsville City Council Member Wanika Fisher, national walkability expert Dan Burden, and nationally renowned transportation expert Charles Marohn.

A Crash Analysis Studio is a comprehensive analysis of the built environment at the location of a fatal traffic crash. While police investigations and insurance evaluations are conducted to determine fault, a Crash Analysis Studio is convened to determine whether roadway design created an unsafe travel environment. This panel will produce a short list of recommendations for improving the roadway design at and around the location of the fatal accident.

“When a plane crashes, or when someone dies as a result of medical action, a review panel is called to identify what caused the tragic loss of human life,” Charles Marohn said. “We owe it to the victims of traffic crashes to analyze the circumstances of their death with just as much rigor, and to fix our streets to prevent future harm.”

Members of the Hyattsville community are encouraged to attend and witness the Studio. Registration for the free event is available at strongtowns.org/crash-studio

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