

From: [Shay Stevens](#)
To: [Amy Harvey](#)
Subject: FW: You shouldn't have to press a button for a walk sign (Petition)
Date: Thursday, December 12, 2024 1:35:55 PM

PFrom: Tom Jensen <tom.w.jensen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2024 2:29 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: You shouldn't have to press a button for a walk sign

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Mayor and Council:

Here is an experience I just had at Franklin and Estes. I was at the corner with the Walgreens and arrived at the intersection with traffic on Franklin having a green light, which meant after I pushed the button to cross Franklin I should have gotten a walk sign as soon as it changed to traffic on Estes getting a green light. Except I didn't actually get a walk sign, something that happens maybe 20% of the time for me at that intersection even after pushing the button.

So then I pressed the button to just cross Estes instead. That actually worked, when it was my turn I got a walk sign.

So then I pressed the button to cross Franklin at the intersection with Caribou. Again Franklin had the green light at this point so plenty of time for me to have pressed the button and get the walk sign when that changed. Once again no walk sign. I walked back to Community Center Park and crossed under Franklin Street to get across the street probably 10 minutes later.

A decade ago Lee Storrow worked with staff to make it so that at Franklin and Estes you didn't even have to press a button to get a walk signal, you just got a walk signal period. Drivers don't have to press a button to get a green light, pedestrians should have the same courtesy. At some point this got switched back because this town really is more about cars than pedestrians.

I am petitioning Council to have all intersections in town automatically get a walk sign and for you to remove all the buttons so that you can't just change it back in five years without any public process like happened here. The community voted this week to give you a bunch of money this week for pedestrians projects, this is an opportunity for you to make a policy change that reflects the interests of the community.

Thank you for your service,

Tom Jensen