Weymouth's Ralph Talbot Street (MA Route 228)

School Cautionary Area - Safety Walkthrough 12/18/2025

Part 1 – Field Reference Table (East → West Walk)

Reference Areas

(Images from Google Streetview)

What to Observe (Safety Issues & Impact)



Aerial View – Pine St & Ralph Talbot

Observe:

- Complex and very unordinary multi-road convergence
- Telephone pole in the middle of the intersection
- Heavy AM cut-through traffic
- No traffic calming entering the cautionary area.

Impact: Sets unsafe speed expectations before reaching school zone; recommended as starting point for walkthrough.



380 Ralph Talbot
Retaining Wall / Narrow Walk

Observe:

- Extremely narrow school-side sidewalk
- Bags, trash barrels, appliances regularly blocking path
- Utility pole centered in walkway
- Pre-school traffic into the church lot.

Impact: Forces pedestrians (incl. strollers) into roadway;

Note: *Recent location of a stroller tip-over incident*



365 Ralph Talbot
Elizabeth Ln Intersection

Observe:

- No stop signs
- No painted crosswalk
- Blind corner due to fencing and bushes
- High vehicle turning speed risk.

Impact: Uncontrolled intersection in the middle of the cautionary area; dangerous for morning walkers.

Reference Areas

(Images from Google Streetview)



341 Ralph Talbot
Failing Curb & Steps

What to Observe (Safety Issues & Impact)

Observe:

- Major curb discontinuities
- 4–6 inch vertical steps at driveways
- Utility pole “pinch point”
- Inconsistent sidewalk grade.

Impact: Walkers, bikes, strollers – all of which are frequently forced into street;

Note: *this is immediately adjacent to the location of Eric’s (this document’s author) own truck vs. pedestrian accident.*



331 Ralph Talbot
Broken Pavement / No Crosswalk

Observe:

- Cracked walkway
- No stop signs
- Ramps with Truncated dome for the visually impaired but no painted crosswalk

Impact: Pedestrian path is functionally unusable for wheels; hazard is systemic not incidental.



326 Ralph Talbot
Citgo Blocked Sidewalk

Observe:

- Cars from the business often fully blocking sidewalk
- Cars pulling across walkway without visibility
- Large puddling
- Rounded, low curb invites encroachment.

Impact: Walkers routinely enter roadway; high-risk conflict point.



279 Ralph Talbot

Observe:

- Main crosswalk lacks interior striping
- RTPS Driveway crosswalk is properly marked but the significantly lesser used crosswalk
- Opposite-side sidewalk heavily used
- Shoulder parking contributes to breakdown-lane conflicts.

Reference Areas (Images from Google Streetview) **School Entrances / Crosswalks**	**What to Observe (Safety Issues & Impact)** **Impact:** Center of PSA video but only covers a fraction of the safety issues; good discussion anchor for short-term fixes.

Part 2 - Corridor Context

Ralph Talbot Street (MA Route 228) functions not only as a school frontage but also as a primary regional thoroughfare. In addition to local traffic, this corridor regularly carries through-traffic serving multiple South Shore communities and is commonly used by emergency vehicles, including ambulance traffic accessing and departing South Shore Hospital.

As a result, the roadway exhibits higher baseline speeds, heavier volumes, and more frequent priority vehicle movements than a typical residential school street. These factors increase the complexity of managing pedestrian safety during peak school arrival and dismissal periods and amplify the consequences of congestion or delay.

Additional Conditions to Be Aware Of

The following conditions may not be observed during the walkthrough but are regularly reported or observed during school arrival and dismissal:

- Emergency vehicle transits during active school periods
- Shoulder or right-side passing when vehicles queue at or near signalized intersections
- Pedestrians walking in the roadway or shoulder due to sidewalk gaps or obstructions
- Speed rebound following release from the Pine Street traffic signal
- Temporary sidewalk or shoulder obstructions (trash barrels, parked vehicles, maintenance activity)
- Seasonal visibility impacts such as snowbanks, leaf cover, glare, or early darkness

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Guiding Principle

This corridor functions as a daily walking route for dozens of families. Addressing conditions proactively now will significantly reduce the risk of severe injury or fatality in the future.

This document is maintained as a live working record and may be updated with additional observations, links, or supporting materials as this work continues.

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bit.ly/228-Weymouth-2025
This link for town & state VIPs