



Marcus Russi added a photo and a video — feeling hopeful with [A.r. Canzano](#) and 2 others at [Dwight Street Historic District](#).

9 hrs · New Haven ·

Below is a video of a peaceful scene on Dwight Street, followed by a picture of my socks nailed to my bedroom wall.

In the hours between filming the video (yesterday, 5:50pm) and taking the photo-o-the-sox (yesterday, 8:54pm), a car accident occurred when a woman who was trying to get down Dwight Street in one shot without hitting any of the lights reportedly decided to drive through a red one and collided at 35-50mph with a car traveling eastbound on Edgewood Avenue. As I am an EMT and happened to be enjoying a quiet afternoon in my backyard when this occurred, [Isaac](#) and I ran through the house and onto Dwight Street and I sprinted, in the aforementioned socks, to the scene of the accident. Two totaled cars (one billowing smoke), a hell of a lot of shattered glass, and a gathering crowd of people had become arranged in a noisy, chaotic mess. After ascertaining that EMS was two minutes away, I identified the occupants of the car, checked both cars for any children or other occupants (coughing from the acrid smoke billowing from the engine compartment into the interior compartment of one of the cars), quickly determined that there appeared to be no immediate threats to life to anyone on-scene, and transferred care to the paramedics who arrived minutes later.

As it happens I've been working on a performance art/cycling activism project called The Caravan, aimed at creating a safer road culture of mutual respect between cyclists and motorists in the City of New Haven. I just submitted a grant to fund it a half hour ago. What happened yesterday on Dwight and Edgewood traumatized me, forever changed me, kept me up until 4:30am this morning, and made me realize how potentially important this project is to improving the safety of New Haven's streets. If my interpretation of how the accident happened turns out to be correct, the Park St-bound woman was the victim and the I-91/CT-34W bound woman was the victim of her own recklessness and ignorance/abuse of the responsibility she holds as a motorist. But what if the victim was me or one of my friends or literally anyone else who travels on two wheels, biking back from West Rock or Westville or Edgewood Park via Edgewood on a sunny afternoon on Labor Day weekend? The answer is certain death, and if you doubt me, maybe some photos of the vehicles will show up in the local newspaper tomorrow and prove you wrong.

I am kicking off this project this afternoon and need a lot of help in the design of the Caravan (described on the project's Github, available here [<https://github.com/marcusrussi/caravan>]), publicity, collaboration with LBS' (local bike shops) and New Haven municipal authorities and the Connecticut Department of Transportation, film production and screening, audio recording, advising on risk management and pitfall analysis, and volunteers to ride the bike for 30min-1hr increments daily during November 1st-30th. There are many other tasks which will need to be done that I am surely not aware of yet. If you are interested in getting involved in any capacity or can connect me to someone whom you believe would be a valuable collaborator on this artwork, please get in touch with me at:

"marcusrussi+caravan@gmail.com" [sic]

@: [Max Farbman](#), [Colin Hemez](#), [Angus Mossman](#), [Isaac KD](#), [A.r. Canzano](#), [Tessa Adler](#), [Sam Andrade](#), [Rafi Bildner](#), [Greg Pelican](#), [Scott Feltmate](#), [Asher Young](#), [Doug Streat](#), [Sylvan Zheng](#), [Elena Hodges](#), and many others whom I missed

In memory of my friends and friends of friends who have been injured, permanently disabled or killed in motorist-cyclist collisions, and in memory of [Joshua Z Chang](#).

-Marcus



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CONTACTS

- Catherine Stark
- Megan McCarthy
- Sahil Gupta
- Elena Hodges 1h
- Michelle Jones 2h
- Sylvan Zheng 1h
- Giles Bonner
- Henry Li

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Doug Streat, Natalie Rose Schwartz and 46 others



Rachael Weiss Sirianni We actually owned 215 Dwight when we lived in new haven (sold to a friend of ours after we moved to Phoenix). Our dog Zane was hit by a speeding car just feet away from our front door and broke his spine. We knew we couldn't raise our children there, that's for sure. Good luck with this project!!

Like · Reply · 8 hrs



Marcus Russi Rachael, it's great to hear from you. If you are interested in speaking over the phone on a recorded call that would become original material for the project, shoot me an email at the one I listed above, and we'll schedule a time to talk!

Like · Reply · 3 hrs



Rachael Weiss Sirianni Marcus Russi absolutely; although Greg Sirianni might actually be a better source of (more) info. Depending on what you're interested in, we may be able to connect you with other members of the neighborhood that have since moved on. The area has a truly fascinating history

Like · Reply · 2 hrs



Marcus Russi Whatever's best!! I would love to talk to both of you, and would be particularly interested in collecting oral histories from other past and current residents (especially people who would NOT be considered part of the undergrad population) about their experiences of life on the street as it relates to traffic safety concerns and cycling/pedestrian safety in the Greater Dwight corridor. Ever since I learned that New Haven's first African-American dentist lived in 216 Dwight I always sensed that there was more to learn. Let's chat soon! 203 984 1636, marcusrussi+caravan@gmail.com

Like · Reply · 2 mins



Marcus Russi Also Mark is now the Head of Jonathan Edwards College. I should mention that when I was the first responder to a tonic-clonic seizure at Commencement this past May, Mark was the only one who left the stage (while the honorary degree procession continued to the tune of amplified Stevie Wonder songs through Yale's voluminous PA system) and rushed over to join me and several paramedics and emergency room physicians (both ER doc moms and dads, and people serving in a professional capacity for emergency management at the event). Not a moment I will soon forget, as we hadn't seen each other in a year or two.

Like · Reply · Just now



Write a reply...



Mary Sireci I don't doubt you at all. Good thing for them you were there. Good luck with your project and please let me know if there is anyway I can support you.

Like · Reply · 7 hrs



Marcus Russi Thanks Mary! I'll be in touch!

Like · Reply · 3 hrs



Write a reply...



Frankie Andersen-Wood Just saw pretty much the exact same thing very nearly happen again at the same intersection. 😞

Like · Reply · 5 hrs



Marcus Russi Frankie, it's terrifying to hear that. I just visited the crash site to take some photos of the glass which is still on the street. Like I was saying to Rachael, let me know if you would be interested in speaking in a recorded conversation that would become part of the project? You can reach me at that same address

Like · Reply · 3 hrs



Write a reply...



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YOUR PAGES



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9+



Mr. Glass is the Best ...

3

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