STARS Project Gabelsbergerstraße Unsafe Street Crossing Ricardo Aitken & Martins Tamovics

March 19, 2013





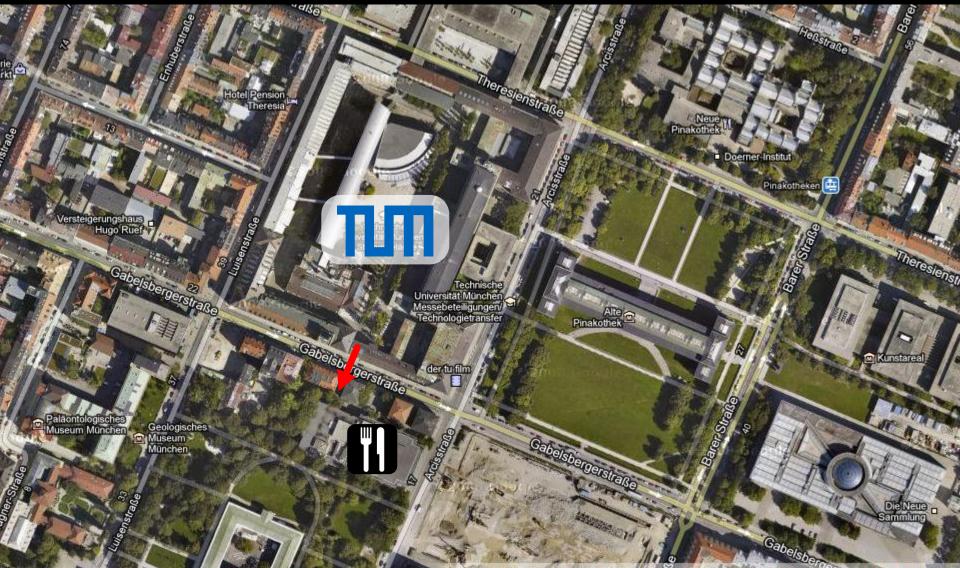
Introduction



Project Context

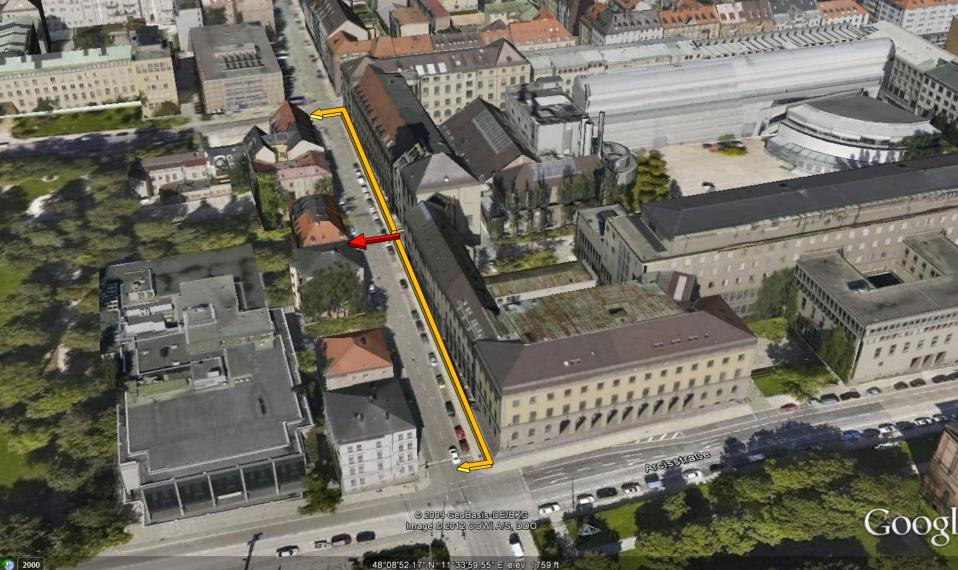
 Anecdotal evidence, personal experience and site visits reveal that pedestrians feel unsafe while crossing Gabelsbergerstraße between the main Campus of Technische Universität München (TUM) and its Canteen





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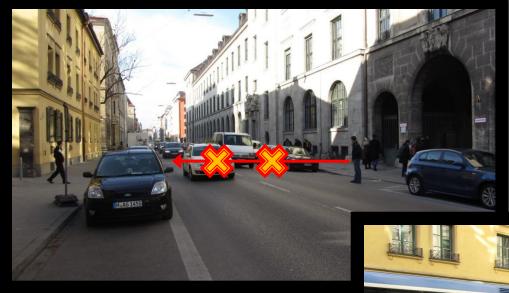
48°08'52.17" N 11°33'59.55" E elev 1759 ft



Problem: Unsignalized crossing from campus to canteen



Project Site



Lack of signals

Limited line-of-sight



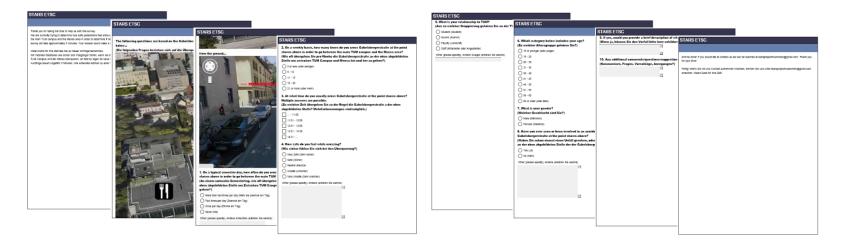
Project Site



Heavy pedestrian volumes

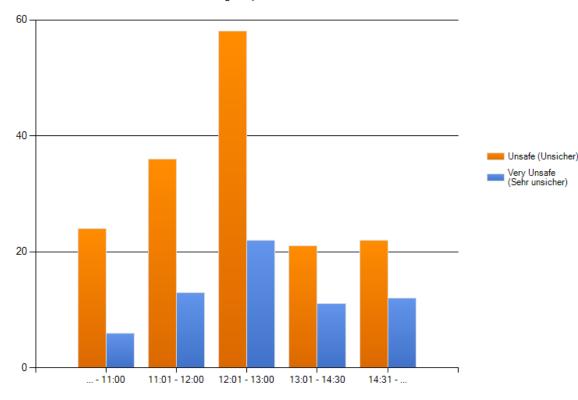
Survey

 A survey was performed which revealed that 95 out of 204 individual survey participants felt unsafe or very unsafe crossing, particularly during the peak lunch hour.



Survey Main Results

At what time do you usually cross Gabelsbergerstraße at the point shown above? Multiple answers are possible.(Zu welcher Zeit übergehen Sie zu der Regel die Gabelsbergerstraße a der oben abgebildeten Stelle? Mehrfachnennungen sind möglich.)

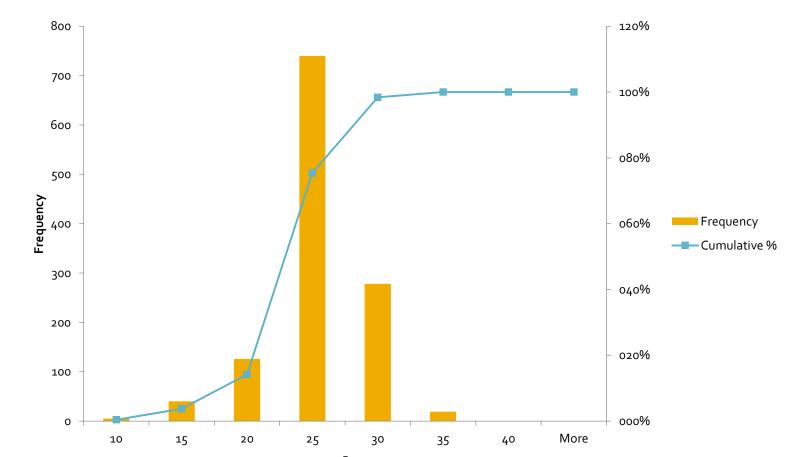


Preliminary Speed Measurements



Preliminary Measurements Results





Results

- Four main problems in the project area were identified:
 - Perceived pedestrian danger
 - Lack of information for drivers regarding pedestrians traversing at an unsignalized crossing between two signalized intersections
 - Limited line-of-sight due to parked cars
 - Potentially unsuitable traffic speed

Initial Idea

Goal:

Direct attention of drivers to pedestrians

Potential Solution(s):

- Horizontal markings (e.g. zebra stripes)
- Reorganize parking around crossing
- Pedestrian detection signals (e.g. flashing)

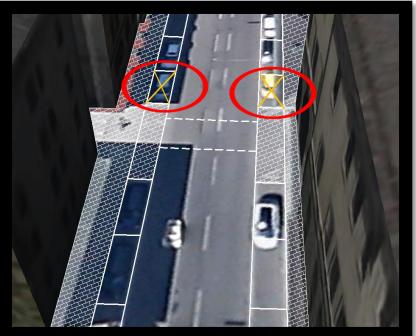


Initial Idea





Parking spot elimination to increase line-of-sight



Project Work

Difficulties

- Language barrier and strict German laws
- Making appointments to contact the right people

Solution

 Enlist aid from TUM's Chair of Traffic Engineering and Control to obtain a contact point at the City's Department of Traffic

New Signage

 In cooperation with Mr. Robert Neuner and the City of Munich, temporary equipment and signage were installed at the project site after many discussions, multiple meetings, and different proposals.



New signage redirects drivers' attention to pedestrians crossing

Ahead of the crossing and at the actual crossing





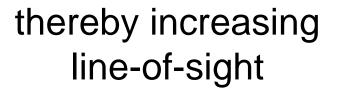
New signage reduces speed limit from 50 to 30 km/hr Monday to Friday during peak lunch traffic (10-12h)



New signage eliminates 4 parking spots Monday to Friday during peak lunch traffic (10-13h)



New signage eliminates parking near pedestrian crossing







Speed Measurements 2 Days After Implementation

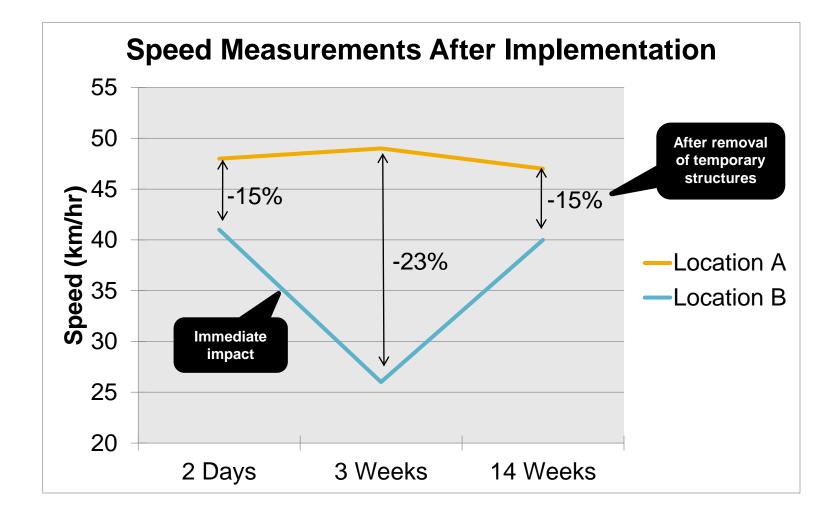
Allowed Speed Limit	50 km/hr
New Reduced Speed Limit (during peak lunch hours)	30 km/hr
Avg. Speed Measured 230 Meters Before Project Crossing*	~ 48 km/hr
Avg. Speed Measured At Project Crossing**	~ 41 km/hr
Total Avg. Speed Reduction	~ 7 km/hr Decrea
*52 vehicles, **90 vehicles	

Speed Measurements 3 Weeks After Implementation

Allowed Speed Limit	50 km/hr	
New Reduced Speed Limit (during peak lunch hours)	30 km/hr	
Avg. Speed Measured 230 Meters Before Project Crossing*	~ 49 km/hr	
Avg. Speed Measured At Project Crossing*	~ 26 km/hr	
Total Avg. Speed Reduction	~ 23 km/hr	
*100 vehicles		

Speed Measurements 14 Weeks After Implementation

Allowed Speed Limit	50 km/hr
New Reduced Speed Limit (during peak lunch hours)	30 km/hr
Avg. Speed Measured 230 Meters Before Project Crossing*	~ 47 km/hr
Avg. Speed Measured At Project Crossing*	~ 40 km/hr
Total Avg. Speed Reduction	~ 7 km/hr Decre
*90 vehicles	



Next Steps

- Report detailing results as well as speed measurements has been delivered to the City's Department of Traffic and City Planning
- Two important results:
 - It is possible to improve traffic safety by simply installing street signs and not changing street infrastructure
 - The temporary signage and equipment installed reduced speed and improved safety thus potentially warranting a more permanent solution
- City will conduct an in-depth traffic flow analysis to determine the next steps

Lessons Learned

- Be creative
- Find a partner, not a sponsor
- Find a way to cooperate
- Barter
- Be persistent

