

Fatal pedestrian accident in Andrew Square renews calls for safer streets



BOSTON MA. – SEPTEMBER 29: The tractor trailer unit on Dorchester St. near East and West Broadway that is suspected in a fatal Pedestrian accident in Andrew Sq. on September 29, 2020 in Boston, MA. (Staff Photo By Stuart Cahill/MediaNews Group/Boston Herald)

By [Alexi Cohan](#) | alexicohan@bostonherald.com | Boston Herald

PUBLISHED: September 29, 2020 at 6:19 p.m. | UPDATED: September 29, 2020 at 6:25 p.m.

A fatal pedestrian accident involving a truck that closed off Andrew Square for much of the day on Tuesday is prompting Boston advocates to renew their calls for safer streets.

A woman was struck by the large truck and was taken to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead, according to Boston Police. No charges have been filed against anyone involved and the investigation is still active.

“One of the real problems with these large vehicles is the very poor sight lines for the person driving,” said Brendan Kearney of WalkBoston. He said many fatal crashes with pedestrians or cyclists often involve trucks.

Stacy Thompson, executive director of LivableStreets Alliance, said the trucks have blind spots making it hard to see and navigate in a city.

The area of the crash is also known to be a dangerous corridor, said Thompson, and several groups have been calling for safety improvements on Dorchester Ave. for years.

“We have not moved fast enough and been proactive enough in making streets safer,” said Thompson.

Last year in Boston there were 695 pedestrian incidents that required Boston EMS response, according to data from a city of Boston [dashboard](#). So far this year there have been 250.

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn said, “Pedestrian safety has to remain a top priority. People are driving fast and I think it’s critical that we slow down the speed limit.”

Since the pandemic set in, streets in and around Boston have been less congested leading to speeding.

“For drivers, pretend that your own family members are walking on the street and in the crosswalks and be extremely respectful and cautious when driving,” said Flynn.

The truck at the scene of Tuesday’s crash was about a mile away from Andrew Square. It was from Almeida Trucking, based in Rehoboth. The contact number for the company could not be completed as dialed.

According to information from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Almeida Trucking has not been involved in any crashes in the past two years and there are six drivers with the company.