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Student concern over traffic safety yields crosswalk signs at MACA

A service project from students at the Media Arts & Communications Academy (MACA) resulted in a safer intersection at the corner of 13th and Davis, where crosswalk signs were installed last week.

Three students, senior Nick Jones and juniors Jake Mealue and Travis Fahy (pictured below from left), became concerned last year about the intersection of NE 13th and Davis, where they saw cars go too fast, nobody yielding, and students not paying attention as they crossed the street. They filmed cars, school busses and pedestrians at the intersection for three days. They used the data to craft a letter asking the city for stop signs at each corner of the intersection.

Next, they used their data to create a persuasive presentation which they took to city officials, convincing them of the importance of safety at the intersection. "They were surprised at how much data we had," said Mealue of city officials at the meeting. He added that "usually, people go in with nothing and just ask for stuff." Officials commended the students for having complete data. "That made us feel good," said Mealue, adding that he was proud that the city listened to "just a bunch of teenagers."

The trio did not realize the city's plans to install crosswalk signs until they saw the signs outside of MACA. "We were just happy and really surprised," said Mealue. Nick Jones said, "It was kind of like waking up on Christmas day - a nice little surprise." He added, "It's a thing you can tell your kids, that you and a group of kids did something like this." MACA's next exhibition of student projects will be held Thursday, January 21 from 6-8pm at MACA, 1330 NE Cowls Street in McMinnville.

For more information, please contact Laurie Cooper at MACA, 503-565-5600.

