

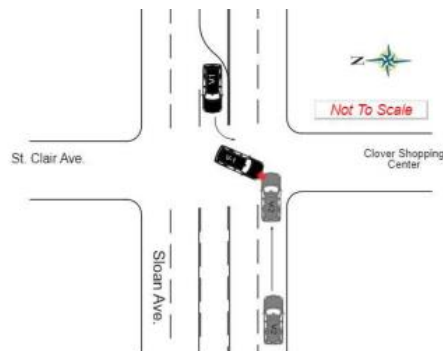
43 accidents in 2.5 years at One Intersection

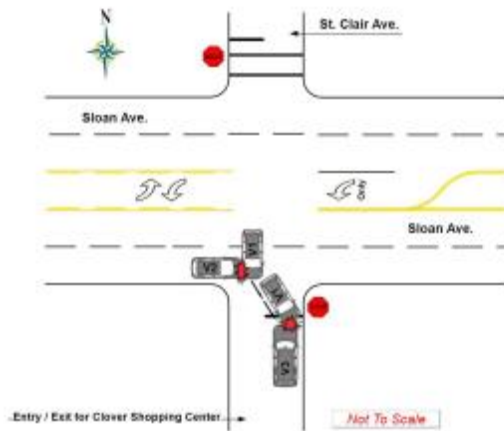


Where did this happen? In Hamilton Township, Mercer County, Sloan Rd, and Clover Mall

Although most car accidents are due to some type of human error, it's not uncommon to hear about poor road design as a factor in a crash. A variety of roadway problems can contribute to car accidents. Whether it's a steep drop off, unmarked construction zone or dangerously large pothole, motorists are the true victims. Municipalities have a duty to make sure roadways are safe for drivers. If poor road design was a factor in your crash, the nearest lawyer who is a skilled personal injury attorney will help you hold those responsible and accountable.

Where does accountability reside? Planning Board member, Town leadership, planners, etc.



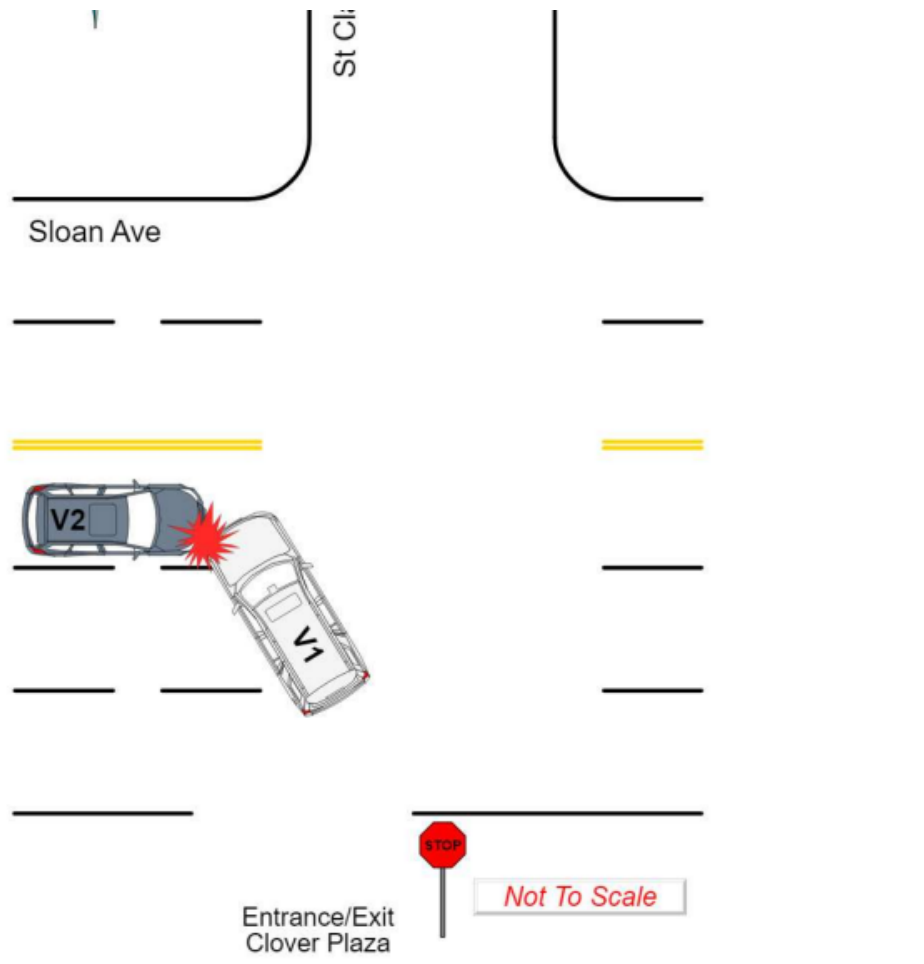


DEFECTIVE ROADWAY

What is a defective roadway? A defective roadway is the type of place where accidents just always seem to happen. There could be poorly marked areas, blind curves, improperly graded roads or a variety of other design flaws and defects. You might be aware of several of these areas around town. There are always accidents happening, and nobody ever seems to do anything about it.

In Hamilton at ONE intersection, accidents might be improperly contributed to other factors like speed or careless driving, but one doesn't get around that some roads just weren't designed to be safe. The planning board in the township listens to the applications from developers. These same developers show as part of their application a "traffic study". There are zero experts on the board for the township that have any credentials to be able to properly understand the traffic studies. Many of the members do not take the time to even visit the planned sites to understand the reality of what they are approving of. One should also question what training do the board members receive (who are all volunteers) from the township to ensure the decisions they are making do not harm residents.

When a resident recently OPRA's all accidents on Sloan Road for a period of 2.5 years, they could not get all the information. The townships clerk's office made the resident limit the OPRA to one intersection. The township clerk stated that there are so many on Sloan Rd, they cannot pull all the information. The resident needed to limit their request to one intersection.



So, the resident picked one intersection (there are many on Sloan Rd). They selected the intersection of Sloan and the Clover Mall). **There were 43 accidents in 2.5 years at this ONE intersection on the road.** This sounds like the Wilson Ave incident where over 35 calls were made to a troubled property by residents where the town leadership did not rectify the situation for years. Why did the town leadership not see this pattern and demand action to safeguard residents?

There are so many types of roadway defects. Some of the most common problems are potholes, drop-offs and unsafe shoulders. You might not think a pothole is no big deal but imagine it's really big and you're going down a roadway with a 55 mile per hour speed limit. Now, we've got a problem. You could have a tire blowout, or you could lose control of your car. Likewise, unsafe shoulders are very well known for causing rollover accidents. Say your tire drifts off the shoulder just a bit and you go to correct it. Depending on the type of shoulder, you could risk flipping and rolling your automobile. This is especially concerning on two-lane highways, where wide-load semi-trucks might be coming in the other direction. What choice do you have but to veer slightly off the roadway?

Different Types of Roadway Design Issues

- Blind curves
- Roads not properly treated for snow or ice
- Damaged or missing signs
- Poor lighting
- Broken guardrails
- Steep or no shoulders leading to rollovers or drop offs.
- Landscaping which obstructs vision
- Curves not graded properly.
- Poorly designed intersections
- Road not maintained.

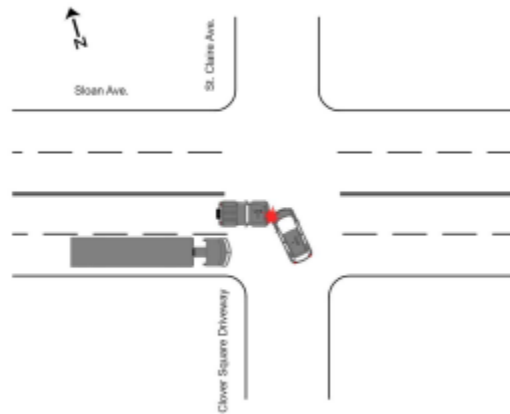
Poorly Maintained Streets

Streets must be properly maintained for safety. Roads that have been left to deteriorate can cause a variety of problems and unsafe situations for drivers. This is especially true for bicyclists, who depend on properly maintained roads for their personal safety. Maybe the street wasn't marked properly or didn't have the right signs. Even if you're not sure if a poorly maintained street contributed to your accident, it's a good idea to ask an experienced lawyer about it. They may know about the street in question too.

Investigations and post-accident proceedings can leave victims frustrated, under the best conditions, but what about when there's nobody to blame but the road designers? Cases involving poorly designed roadways can quickly become complicated too. Insurance companies may be slow to pay out on claims, and they may even try to deny these claims. Most likely, a lawyer will find experts like engineers and other professionals to help your case. It isn't enough that you know the road is dangerous, you've got to have facts to back it up. It's not like a traditional car accident case, where you know who is at fault, because that person was given a citation. Residents have proof in Hamilton. Forty-three accidents at one intersection in 2.5 years screams incompetence of leadership.

Dangerous Intersections

Were you injured at a dangerous intersection? Were the lights malfunctioning? Maybe there was foliage obstructing your vision. No matter what the case is, a lawyer can help to get the ball rolling on this type of case. Don't let your insurance company bully you and be sure to make your concerns about the dangerous intersection known. It isn't always enough to just tell somebody. If you can, have it written down in the accident report with law enforcement.



The research estimates that, each year, nearly nine billion disability-adjusted life-years caused by road injury are due to poor urban design.

The lack of adequate infrastructure and services, unsafe housing, inadequate and poor health services can turn natural hazard into a disaster. For example, poor solid waste management can cause blockage to storm water and sewage networks that can lead to waterlogging and flooding.

Weak governance zones are investment environments in which public sector actors are unable or unwilling to assume their roles and responsibilities in protecting rights, providing basic services, public services, and ensuring that public sector management is efficient and effective. These “government failures” lead to broader failures in political, economic, and civic institutions that are referred to as weak governance.

Weak governance is a driver of disaster risk and is linked to many other risk drivers such as poverty and inequality, poorly planned urban development, and globalized economic development. To be most effective in reducing disaster risk, an integrated systems approach to governance, featuring strong coordination across sectors and a delegation of responsibilities to the local level is needed.

Mercer County has the 7th highest rate of accidents in the state of NJ

New Jersey State Totals for 2023

Crashes	Fatalities
498	526

STATE POLICE FATAL ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT
YEAR TO DATE - STATEWIDE FATAL CRASH STATISTICS
FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2023

FATAL CRASHES	FATALITIES
2023 - 498	2023 - 526
2022 - 573	2022 - 612
2021 - 585	2021 - 609

FATALITIES FROM 2022 TO 2023	-86
PERCENTAGE CHANGE 2022 TO 2023	-14.1%
FATALITIES FROM 2021 TO 2022	3
PERCENTAGE CHANGE 2021 TO 2022	.5%

VICTIM CLASSIFICATION

	2021	2022	2023
DRIVER	329	344	293
PASSENGER	72	93	71
PEDALCYCLIST	23	15	21
PEDESTRIAN	185	160	141
TOTAL	609	612	526

2023 - AGE OF VICTIMS

AGE	DRIVER	PASSENGER	PEDALCYCLIST	PEDESTRIAN
16 AND UNDER	0	10	2	8
17	2	3	0	2
18 - 20	19	6	0	1
21 - 24	32	9	1	5
25 - 29	30	8	1	4
30 - 39	50	6	3	21
40 - 49	41	7	7	17
50 - 64	54	6	5	31
65 - 79	43	8	2	43
80 AND OVER	21	8	0	9
UNKNOWN	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	293	71	21	141

THIS REPORT CONTAINS STATISTICS OF FATAL MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES THAT HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO THE NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE FATAL ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT.

In recent years, traffic deaths in the U.S. have increased. After a gradual reduction over 50 years, fatalities soared to a 16-year high in 2021 when almost 43,000 people died. Pedestrian deaths hit a 40-year high at 7,500.

Road traffic deaths and injuries are not accidents. They are incidents that can be prevented and reduced. Doing that will require governments and urban planners to reimagine transportation systems not just for speed and efficiency, but also for safety and livability.

That will mean protecting motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians from vehicular traffic and reducing traffic speed on urban roads. It also will require better road design, enforcement of traffic laws that make the roads safer, and more effective and enforceable measures that promote safety devices like seat belts, child restraints, and helmets for bikers and motorcyclists.

NHTSA's Office of Regional Operations and Program Delivery (ROPD) administers over \$500 million in grant programs annually to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Territories, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Under Section 405, NHTSA awards grants for occupant protection, State traffic safety information systems, impaired driving countermeasures, distracted driving, motorcyclist safety, State graduated driver licensing laws, and non-motorized safety. Why has Hamilton not taken advantage of this money in the State?

In Mercer County, statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show that traffic crashes remain a primary public safety issue. Car, truck, bicycle, pedestrian, and motorcycle accidents are all common occurrences, despite improvements in vehicle safety features, road design, bicycle and pedestrian corridors, and traffic signs.

Recently, the county placed a sign on Quakerbridge Road (when you are making a right onto Sloan Rd). The new signage demonstrates that you can no longer make a right on red on that corner.

This week as well, an additional sign that demonstrates to Left hand turn from Sloan Rd to the Clover Mall has been erected. The sign is present only at one side street into the mall. An additional sign has been placed at Starbucks, saying, "This lot is prone to flooding."

Be safe everyone and pay attention to the new signage on Sloan Rd that the county has placed. The planning board and town leadership owe residents a safe place to live. They all need to reflect on the job they have been doing and do much better. Residents lives depend on it.