

“Right or Wrong, the Pedestrian
Loses and the Driver will Live
with Guilt.”

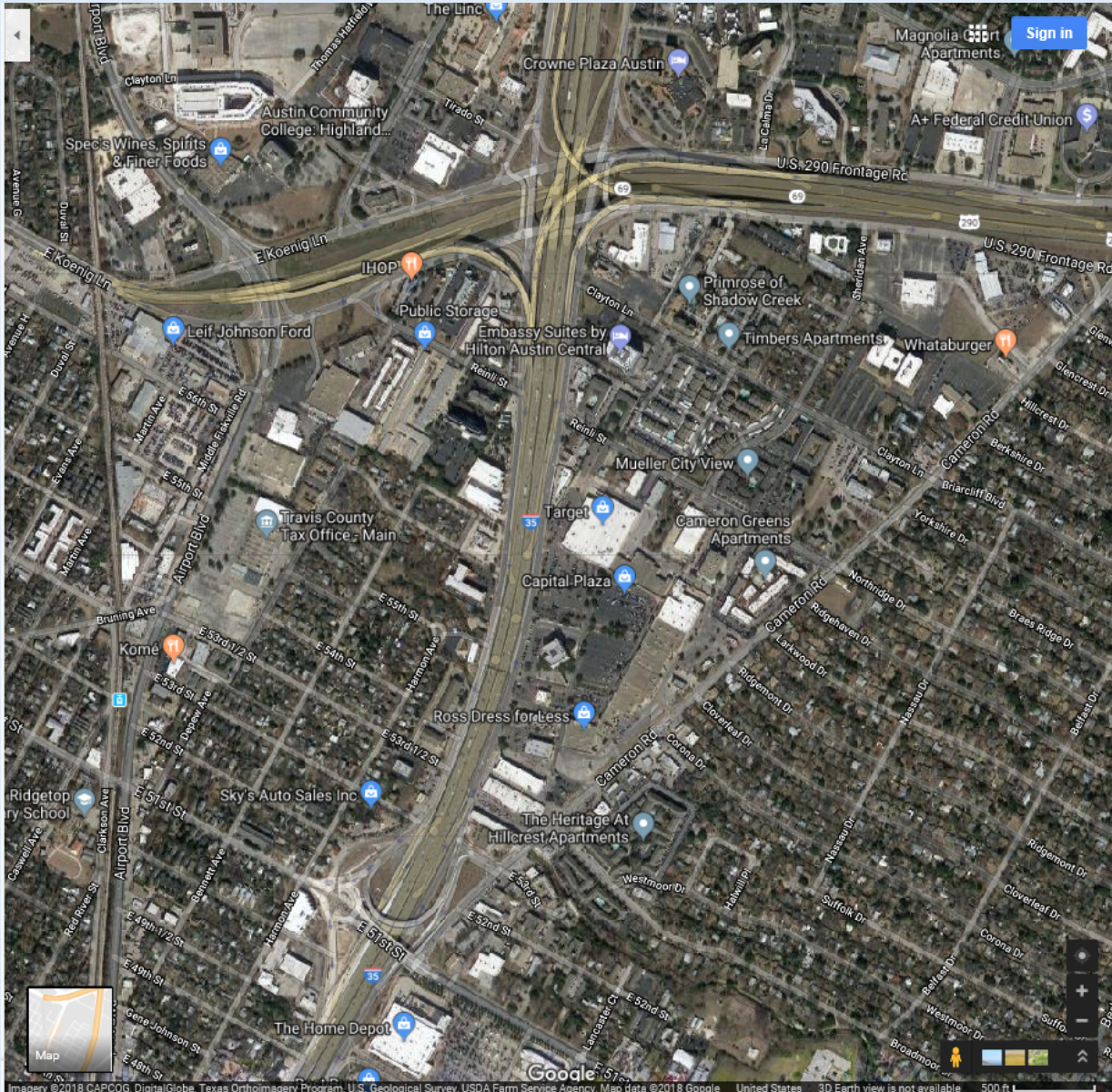
My Background

I've been in Law Enforcement for the last 27 years. In my early years, I was a Crash Investigator and responded to fatality crashes that occurred throughout the city of Austin, Texas. Many of the crashes that I handled during my career have been pedestrian vs vehicle crashes on the highway. I've been a sergeant for 10 years and have spent the last 3 years assigned to the Austin Police Department Highway Enforcement Command, where I've attempted to assist in the mitigation of pedestrian dangers. In 3 years I've observed the number of pedestrian fatalities to be very high in the Austin area.

Many of the “Auto vs Pedestrian” crashes that I’ve handled over the years are crashes on “High Speed Roadways” that could have been avoided by the pedestrian and were unavoidable by the automobile.

- The pedestrian ends up seriously injured or dead.
- The driver has to live with guilt of having seriously injured or killed a person. Many drivers will need counselling after a crash where they cause the death or serious injury of a pedestrian, regardless of fault.
- On High speed roadways, the driver often has no time to react to the presence of a pedestrian in the roadway.

The draw to cross the roadway at dangerous locations can outweigh the pedestrian's concern for their own safety.



This is an area of IH35, where Austin has experienced a disproportionate number of pedestrian fatalities.





Is fencing a viable option?
What are the pros and the
cons?



The circumstances of the crash are irrelevant to the driver who strikes a pedestrian. It doesn't matter that they didn't violate a law or cause the crash. They will have to live with the grief/guilt of taking someone's life or seriously injuring a person.