



Philip Sherman | Staff photos

Assistant City Engineer Frank Marinaccio, left, helps traffic foreman Frank Santos hang a 'Newport Waves' banner Thursday on Bellevue Avenue in Newport. On this banner, Community Policing Officer Jimmy Winters serves as a friendly reminder of the need for greater awareness between pedestrians and drivers.

Say hello to safety

'Newport Waves' banners promote awareness on streets

NEWPORT — Public signs of the "Newport Waves" campaign were visible Thursday, as large banners promoting interaction and awareness among pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists were hung along Bellevue Avenue.

Some banners depict a lobster mascot waving with one claw, and read 'Say hello to safer streets.' Other banners feature the likenesses of well-known local residents, who also were featured in a one-minute video that launched the campaign in June.

Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed, D-Newport, secured a \$5,000 legislative grant to pay for the production and hanging of up to 25 banners around the city. There will be a total of 19 banners in the first installation, four on Bellevue and 15 on Memorial Boulevard, said Bari Freeman, executive director of Bike Newport, which is leading the "Newport Wave" campaign.

The Newport Police Department and the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission also are involved in the project, which is supported by a \$10,000 federal "Safe Streets for All" grant.

The city won one of two grants awarded in Rhode Island because among the state's cities, it and Providence have the highest number of crashes between vehicles and pedestrians, bicyclists, wheelchair users, mopeds or other "vulnerable users."

Other parts of the project include studying local ordinances and state laws specifically in connection with pedestrians, bicyclists, pedestrians/motorists and bicyclists/pedestrians and the effectiveness of enforcement, and retraining police officers on the enforcement of pedestrian and traffic ordinances.

For more information about the campaign, visit www.newportwaves.org.



Bari Freeman, executive director of Bike Newport, which is leading the 'Newport Waves' campaign, shows Newport resident Jim Egan a banner that was to be installed Thursday on Bellevue Avenue and Pelham Street in Newport.