

Pedestrian Signals

Pedestrian signals are installed at intersections and mid-block crosswalks to aid pedestrians in crossing a roadway safely. Streets or roadways with pedestrian signals have them because:

- there is a high volume of foot traffic, or
- the traffic signals that direct motorists do not accommodate the needs of pedestrians, or
- areas have heavy traffic flow.

Pedestrian signals use both words and symbols. Transportation safety engineers worldwide are moving toward using symbols in place of words because they are easier for people to comprehend in a shorter amount of time. Easily recognized symbols also accommodate people who don't understand the language. Here are some examples:



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The **WALK or Walk Symbol** tells pedestrians they may now proceed across street if the way is clear.



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The **DON'T WALK or Don't Walk Symbol** (upraised hand) tells pedestrians **NOT** to cross the street.

A flashing **DON'T WALK or Don't Walk Symbol** is a warning to people who have not yet entered the intersection. It means that it is too late to start to safely cross the street before the traffic signal changes and cars are allowed to proceed. Signals are timed to allow pedestrians to safely clear the intersection.

Although the pedestrian signals require vehicles to yield right-of-way to persons in the intersection, it is important to be cautious.

- Cross intersections carefully.
- When crossing the street, cross as quickly as possible. Minimize your time in the roadway.
- Always watch for turning vehicles. Having the legal right-of-way does not protect you from careless motorists.

Planning an Extended Trip

Yield the Right-of-Way to Pedestrians.

The pedestrian has the right-of-way at an intersection, and this right-of-way extends from the moment he/she steps into the intersection, to the time he/she reaches the opposite side of the street. All vehicles intending to pass through the intersection must give the pedestrian the right-of-way and allow him/her to pass from one side of the street to the other in safety.

- **Controlled Intersections** — At intersections or crosswalks where the movement of traffic is being regulated by law-enforcement officers or traffic control devices, the driver shall yield in the direction given by the law-enforcement officer or traffic control device.
- **Uncontrolled Intersections** — At intersecting streets where there are neither traffic lights nor traffic officers, the pedestrian has the right to cross from one side of the street to the other in preference or priority over vehicles. Drivers must respect this right and protect the pedestrian by yielding the right-of-way.
- **Highway Intersections** — Drivers of vehicles entering, crossing, or turning at intersections shall change their course, slow down, or stop if necessary to allow pedestrians to cross these intersections safely. Vehicles making turns into highways must yield to pedestrians crossing the highways at intersections.



Right-of-Way Laws for Pedestrians Crossing Highways

The driver of any vehicle on a highway shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian crossing upon such highways:

1. At any clearly marked crosswalk, whether at mid-block or at the end of any block,
2. At such locations where there is an assumed or imaginary crosswalk extending from sidewalks on either side of an intersection.
3. At any intersection when the driver is approaching on a highway or street where the legal maximum speed does not exceed thirty-five miles per hour.