

# Pedestrian Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

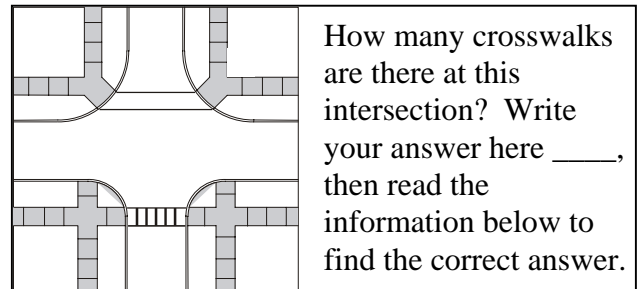


## Who is a Pedestrian?

Pedestrians are young, old, and every age in between. Some have not yet begun to walk and need to be carried or pushed in a stroller. Some have difficulty walking and need the help of canes, walkers, wheelchairs or other mobility devices (manual or motorized). You have been a pedestrian at some point today, even if it was just getting to your car.



## What is a Crosswalk?



A crosswalk, by definition, is the extension of a sidewalk across a street at an intersection, whether the crosswalk is marked or not. Crosswalks can also exist at non-intersection locations when clearly indicated by signs, lines or other markings on the street. Thus, there are four crosswalks in the picture. Two of them are marked with lines and two are unmarked.

A pedestrian's rights, and the responsibilities of a driver towards a pedestrian crossing the street, are the same whether or not the crosswalk is marked with paint, and regardless of the type of markings used.

# Rights & Responsibilities of Drivers and Pedestrians at Intersections

## Intersection without Traffic Signals



### Driver Responsibilities

When a pedestrian is crossing a street at a marked or unmarked crosswalk, and there is no traffic signal:

- **drivers must yield** the right-of-way to the pedestrian crossing within the marked or unmarked crosswalk..
- It does not matter if the driver has a stop sign at the intersection or if there is no stop sign, you must yield the right of way to the pedestrian.
- When turning, you must yield to both pedestrians crossing the street you are on and those crossing the street you are turning onto.
- “Yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian” means the operator of a vehicle is required to reduce speed, or stop if necessary, to avoid endangering, colliding with or interfering in any way with pedestrian travel.

### Pedestrian Responsibilities

- To not suddenly enter the street if a vehicle is so close that it is difficult for the driver to yield to the pedestrian.
- Note that this rule has less to do with the speed at which a pedestrian enters the street and more to do with the distance between the pedestrian and the approaching vehicle.
- Is the vehicle far enough away from the crosswalk, given the speed limit and roadway conditions, for the driver to be able to yield the right-of-way to the pedestrian?

## Intersection with Traffic Signals



### Pedestrian Responsibilities

*If there are pedestrian signals*, you must abide by those signals.

- A pedestrian can begin to cross the street only when the WALK signal is lit.
- Flashing or steady DON'T WALK, or a countdown number display, means do not begin crossing. If you have already started, you may continue to the nearest sidewalk or safety zone.
- The time a pedestrian has to cross the street is the sum of the WALK time and the flashing DON'T WALK time.
- If there is a button to push for the pedestrian signal, you have to push the button or else the WALK signal will not come on.
- If there is no push button, the walk signal should come on every time there is a green signal.

*If there are no pedestrian signals*,

- you may start to cross the road in any marked or unmarked crosswalk when the signal is green.
- Pedestrians facing a red signal when there are not also pedestrian signals can cross the street if they can do so safely and without interfering with any traffic on the street.

### Driver Responsibilities

Drivers turning across a crosswalk on a green signal, or making a right turn on red, must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians in the crosswalk before turning.

## Other Rules for Pedestrians

### Crossing Mid-Block

- At a marked mid-block crosswalk, your rights and responsibilities are the same as at an intersection crosswalk
- If there is no crosswalk, which will typically be the case, you can cross a roadway at any point other than within a marked or unmarked crosswalk as long as you yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

### Walking along a Road

- *If there are sidewalks*, you cannot walk in the road except while crossing the road at a crosswalk.
- *If there are no sidewalks*, you must walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic, and move out of the way when other traffic comes towards you.
- You are prohibited from walking along an expressway or freeway when signs have been erected indicating this prohibition.

### Bicycles on Sidewalks

Bicyclists in Madison can ride on sidewalks except where buildings abut the sidewalk. In these areas it is difficult for bicyclists to see pedestrians and to yield to them when they are exiting buildings or crossing the sidewalk at intersections, alleys or driveways

Bicycles riding on sidewalks, must yield to pedestrians and give an audible warning when passing pedestrians traveling in the same direction.

At intersections and other sidewalk crossings (alleys, driveways), a bicyclist on the sidewalk has the same rights and responsibilities as pedestrians.

## Other Rules for Drivers

*Whenever a vehicle is stopped* at an intersection or crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the operator of any other vehicle approaching from the rear must also stop to let the pedestrian cross the street

**Blind pedestrian law:** drivers must stop no closer than 10 feet to a pedestrian carrying a white cane or walking stick or with a guide dog, and must take such precautions as may be necessary to avoid accident or injury to the pedestrian. The fact that the pedestrian may be violating any of the laws applicable to pedestrians does not relieve the driver of this duty.

**Stopping, Standing and Parking** are prohibited for the safety of pedestrians in the following areas:

- On a crosswalk;
- On a sidewalk or sidewalk area;
- Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb
- Within 15 feet of the end of a safety zone
- Within an intersection (includes T-intersections)
- Where signed (be especially aware of restrictions signed near schools).

**Parking** is prohibited:

- Closer than 15 feet to a crosswalk.
- Wherever else parking restrictions are signed.



## Driver Responsibilities at School Crossings

When approaching a school crossing where there is an **adult school crossing guard**:

- all drivers must follow the directions of the school crossing guard.
- If directed by the school crossing guard to stop, the driver shall stop at least 10 feet from the school crossing and shall remain stopped until the school crossing guard directs you to proceed.
- The *owner* of a vehicle involved in a violation of this law is liable for the violation and can receive a ticket in the mail based on the adult school crossing guard's report.



## Driver Responsibilities Near School Buses

When approaching a **stopped school bus** with its flashing red warning lights on,

- you must stop your vehicle at least 20 feet from the bus, whether you are coming from the front or the rear of the bus, and
- you must remain stopped until the bus resumes motion or the operator turns the flashing red warning lights off.
- The *owner* of a vehicle involved in a violation of this law is liable for the violation and can receive a ticket in the mail based on the school bus driver's report.



For more information on pedestrian safety for drivers and walkers, call:

### Madison Police Department

Traffic Enforcement Safety Team

(T.E.S.T.) ..... 261-9687

Speeding Hotline ..... 266-4624

Central District ..... 266-4575

East District ..... 267-2100

North District ..... 243-5258

South District ..... 266-5938

West District ..... 288-6176

Internet .....

[www.cityofmadison.com/police/poldept.html](http://www.cityofmadison.com/police/poldept.html)

### Traffic Engineering

Office ..... 266-4761

Shop ..... 266-4774

E-mail.....[traffic@cityofmadison.com](mailto:traffic@cityofmadison.com)

Internet .....

[www.cityofmadison.com/trafficEngineering/index.cfm](http://www.cityofmadison.com/trafficEngineering/index.cfm)

### University of Wisconsin

Police Department..... 262-2957

Internet .....[www.uwpd.wisc.edu](http://www.uwpd.wisc.edu)

