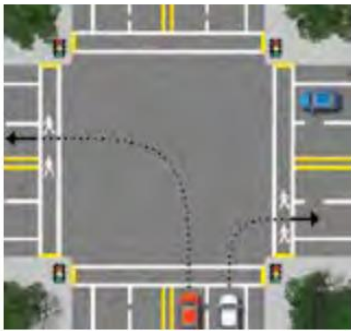


Crosswalks & Pedestrian Safety

Each year the City of Hillsboro receives many requests for marked crosswalks and/or other ways to enhance pedestrian safety. The following provides information on crosswalk laws and the City's criteria for the installation of marked crosswalks.

What's the Law?

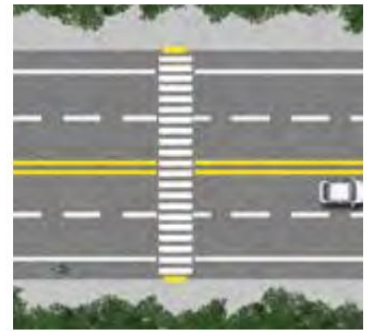
Marked Crosswalks



Unmarked Crosswalks



Mid-block Crosswalks



Source: 2020-2021 Oregon Driver Manual, Oregon Department of Transportation, Driver and Motor Vehicle Services.

Oregon Revised Statute 801.220 says a crosswalk exists at any public road intersection, whether marked or unmarked. Mid-block crosswalks must be painted with white lines to be legal crosswalks.

Under Oregon law, a pedestrian is crossing the roadway in a crosswalk when any part or extension of the pedestrian, including but not limited to any part of the pedestrian's body, wheelchair, cane, crutch or bicycle, moves into the roadway with the intent to proceed.

Oregon Laws Affect Pedestrians Too

Pedestrians are required to obey traffic signals and walk safely.

Before crossing a roadway, pedestrians should make sure traffic is stopped or traffic is far enough away that the driver can come to a comfortable stop. It is not only dangerous, but also illegal, to step into oncoming traffic when a driver is too close to safely stop.

Why Crosswalks?

Crosswalks are an important tool in traffic flow and pedestrian safety. Marked crosswalks are used to direct pedestrians to desirable crossing locations where a driver is more aware of the potential for pedestrian crossings.

Driver compliance is higher for marked crossings when their installation is limited and when used often. Because of this, marked crosswalks are normally found at traffic signals, business districts, and in school zones. Crosswalks may also be installed in locations where studies show that vehicle volume, speeds, and pedestrian use create a condition where they are necessary.

Limitations of Marked Crosswalks

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, a quarter of pedestrians who are struck by vehicles are hit while they are at an intersection. Of those pedestrians hit at the intersection 9 percent are within a crosswalk at the time they are struck.

Marked crosswalks can give pedestrians a false sense of security. Often pedestrians may take a crossing opportunity assuming they are seen by oncoming vehicles rather than waiting for oncoming vehicle to pass before crossing.

Too many marked crosswalks may reduce the overall effectiveness of crosswalks. Studies have suggested that it is safer for pedestrians when the crosswalk is left unmarked because a pedestrian is more aware and crosses with caution.

Who Decides to Mark Crosswalks?

The agency who maintains the roadway may make the decision to mark a crosswalk after evaluation of numerous elements. The City does not maintain all roadways within City limits. To find roadways maintained by the City visit the [roadway jurisdiction](#) map.

An engineering study conducted by the agency will review traffic speeds, crossing distance, traffic and pedestrian volumes, crash history and associated City adopted guidelines/best practices.



Where to Request a Crosswalk?

If you believe your street might benefit from a marked crosswalk, please submit a request online at Hillsboro-Oregon.gov/PublicWorks, call 503-681-6146, or mail:

City of Hillsboro Public Works Department
Transportation Division
4415 NE30th Avenue
Hillsboro, OR 97124

The City carefully evaluates all requests. However, because we receive many requests each year, we cannot always investigate your request as quickly as we would like. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Safety Tips for Pedestrians

- If you cross a street outside a marked crosswalk, you must yield to vehicle traffic.
- Cross at corners. Obey signals at all times and use crosswalks.
- Be prepared to stop no matter who has the right of way.
- Be sure to make eye contact with drivers. If you're not sure the driver sees you, let the vehicle go first.
- If you don't want to cross the street, step back from the edge of the roadway to avoid confusion.
- Keep checking for traffic, even while crossing in marked crosswalks.
- At night, dress to be seen in light colors or reflective gear. Better yet, carry a light.
- When there is no sidewalk, always walk facing oncoming traffic. Stay as far left as possible.
- Use caution when crossing multiple lanes. Check that drivers in each lane see you before crossing. Don't assume that all lanes of traffic will stop.
- Keep your eyes and ears on traffic. Don't talk, text, or listen to headphones.

Safety Tips for Drivers

- Be prepared to stop no matter who has the right of way.
- Remember, under Oregon law there is a crosswalk at every intersection.
- Do not pass a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk. A stopped car may be a clue that a pedestrian is crossing.
- When stopping for a marked crosswalk on a multi-lane road, stop about 30 feet before the crosswalk so you don't block visibility to a driver in a second lane.
- Watch for pedestrians, especially children, when exiting driveways or when backing out of parking spaces in parking lots.
- Pedestrians move at different speeds. Be alert for children who may suddenly dart into the street. Be patient with older adults who take extra time to cross the street.
- Around taverns and bars, be alert for people with slowed reaction times or impaired judgement.
- Be alert for people or animals during low-light conditions, especially in areas where they are likely to cross the road.