



In the Event of a Crash

If you are injured, do not move unless you are sure you will not injure yourself further. If you feel able to do so, call the police. Tell them what happened and the location. Be sure to get the name, driver's license number, address, phone number and vehicle description for everyone involved in the crash. Also get the names and phone numbers of witnesses as well as the report number from the officer at the scene. Write down how the crash happened while it is fresh in your memory. Keep any damaged personal items.



Rollerblading

The responsibilities for rollerblading are similar to pedestrians and bicyclists.

LIKE A BICYCLIST:

- Yield to pedestrians.
- Wear a helmet.
- Skate straight.
- Roll with traffic when on the street.
- Skate right, pass left.
- Give an audible warning to pedestrians before overtaking them.
- Watch out for slick manhole covers, storm grates, debris, oil, sand and water.
- Don't wear headphones.
- Ride three feet away from parked cars to avoid running into an open door.
- Obey all traffic signals and signs.
- Do not skate on or across highways.

LIKE A PEDESTRIAN:

- Use crosswalks whenever possible.
- Cars must yield to you at crosswalks, intersections and sidewalks when you have the right-of-way.
- Remember to wear bright colored or reflective clothing for day as well as night skating.

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A Pedestrian Guide For Rights, Rules, and Safety



Did you know?

- According to the American Heart Association, more people are at risk of coronary heart disease due to physical inactivity than to any other single risk factor. Walking for transportation and recreation can make a major contribution to enhancing societal health.
- By walking more and driving less, fewer pollutants are released into the air, making the community more livable and enjoyable.

Washtenaw Area
Transportation
Study (WATS)



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An Important Component of Being Safe is Being Seen

Nearly 60% of all pedestrian fatalities occur between the hours of 6 pm and 6 am. It is also during this time that a low percentage people are walking.

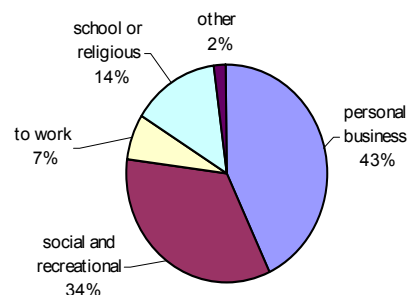
(Federal Highway administration Pub. No. FHWA-SA-01-001)

Between dusk and dawn, it is prudent to wear reflective (or retro-reflective) clothing. Light colors such as yellow and white can be seen in low light situations, but retro-reflective clothing is up to three times more visible.

Colors as seen at night by motorists:

Color:	Distance:
blue	55 ft
red	80 ft
yellow	120 ft
white	180 ft
retro-reflective	500 ft

Purpose of Walking Trips in the United States



Source: Office of Highway Safety Planning;
www.ohsp.state.mi.us

The Law



The Michigan Motor Vehicle Code Section (MMVC) **257.612 (ii)** states: *...The vehicular traffic shall yield the right of way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.*

- Bicyclists have the same rights and rules as motorists and must also yield to pedestrians lawfully in the roadway.
- Pedestrians have the right-of-way when actively crossing in an un-signalized crosswalk.


What is a crosswalk?


A crosswalk is the portion of the roadway at an intersection, connecting sidewalks on either end regardless if pavement markings are present. Crosswalks are also the portion of a roadway distinctly marked for pedestrian crossing through the use of pavement markings or changes in type, texture or height of road surface. Marked crosswalks are often at midblock locations.


What do You do if There are No Crosswalk Signals Present?


Section 257.613 of the MMVC states: *... If special pedestrian control signals are not utilized, the regular control signals... shall apply to pedestrians...*

Under these conditions, the pedestrian shall use the traffic light as a guide to crossing at the intersection.

 Green indication: Pedestrians facing the signal may proceed across the roadway.

 Steady yellow indication: Pedestrians facing the signal are advised that there is insufficient time to cross the roadway; the pedestrian must yield the right of way to vehicles.

 Steady red indication: Pedestrians facing the signal shall not enter the roadway unless they can do so safely and without interfering with vehicular traffic.

 Red with arrow indication: Pedestrians facing the signal shall not enter the roadway unless they can do so safely and without interfering with vehicular traffic.

How do Signals Work?

Crosswalk signals in general, are designed to allow a person to cross the street at the rate of 4 feet per second. The minimum walk phase is timed to get the pedestrian to the middle of the last travel lane



A white walk symbol means to begin crossing the crosswalk and watch for turning cars




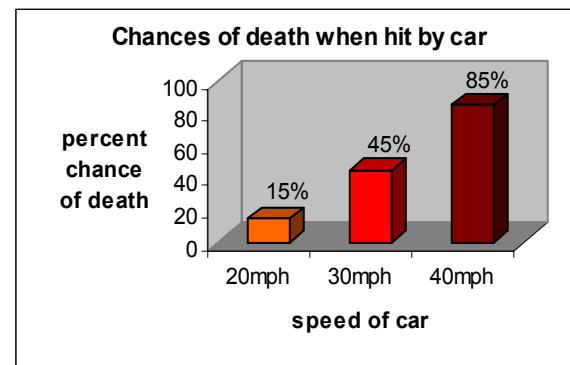
A flashing red hand means to finish crossing the crosswalk, but not to begin crossing if you are on the curb.



A steady red hand means to stay on the curb. If provided, push the button and wait for the walk signal.

Safety Information

- Each year, almost 6,000 pedestrians are killed and 90,000 are injured. Most of these casualties are young children and the elderly. (Federal Highway Administration Pub. No. FHWA-SA-01-001) 
- Automobiles are the biggest threat to pedestrian safety. As the speed of a car increases, the chances of pedestrian death increase dramatically. (FHWA-SA-00-010)
- About 33% of all pedestrians killed have a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.1 or greater. (FHWA-SA-01-003) If you plan to walk, limit alcohol consumption or walk with a sober friend.



With these frightening statistics, it is important that people pay close attention to their surroundings when commuting by foot. By keeping aware of your surroundings and remembering ways to be safe, you decrease your chances of getting injured!

- Keep on the right of a sidewalk or sidepath. This will allow faster pedestrians, bicyclists and others on the path to pass you on the left.
- Watch for cars backing out of driveways.
- When walking in groups make sure you allow other users space to pass with as little delay as possible.
- When crossing streets, go to designated crossings, this is where traffic is expecting you.
- If crossing at a mid-block crosswalk or in an area where crosswalks are not provided, wait until there is a sufficient gap in traffic to safely cross the road.
- Before stepping off the curb try to make eye contact with drivers to make sure they see you. It is advisable to maintain eye contact while you cross the street to better prepare you for evasive action if needed.
- Look both ways on one-way streets. Occasionally drivers may not see a regulatory sign. Remember; look left, right, then left again.
- Pedestrians are prohibited on expressways, freeways and interstate highways.

Railroad Safety

Each year, an estimated 450 people are killed as a result of dangerous activities on or near railroad tracks.

(FHWA-SA-01-002)

A freight train going 55 mph needs over a mile to stop; it can't respond instantly to an obstruction on the rails. In addition to the dangers, it is illegal to loiter on railroad tracks because they are private property. Pedestrians and vehicles should only cross at designated rail crossing "crossbuck" signs. ----->



Work Zones

Construction Zones are especially dangerous environments. Approximately 14% of all work zone fatalities are pedestrians. (FHWA-SA-01-006) For your safety and those within the work zone:


- Follow the directions on the orange signs that tell

you where to go or what to expect.


- Do not cross between cones or barrels that are placed along construction zones.
- If possible, avoid the area completely.
- Be alert for moving construction vehicles, they're faster than they look.
- Try not to pause on sidewalks that pass through construction zones. Find a viewing spot out of the zone if you wish to watch the construction.



Trucks and Buses

- Trucks and buses have blind spots and have trouble seeing vehicles on their sides, front and back. Pedestrians, who are much smaller are more difficult to see due to these blind zones. 
- Allow trucks adequate space to maneuver, they make wide turns at intersections and require additional turning space.
- Try not to cross in front of a public transit bus at a bus stop, the driver may not see you and each stop is scheduled for a certain time; added delays affect service for everyone.
- If you disembark from a school bus, cross in front at a distance of 10 feet to ensure the driver sees you.

Rural Areas

- Traffic along rural roads tends to be faster than within cities or town centers. Speed limits tend to be higher and pedestrian frequency lower. 
- Walk on the shoulder against traffic if there is no sidewalk. Pay special attention during the morning and evening hours when the sun is low in the sky. If the sun is to your back, drivers most likely will not see you due to solar glare.
- Wear bright colors and/or reflective clothing that contrasts with the surrounding landscape.
- If walking between dusk and dawn, bring a flashlight with you for better visibility by both you and the motorists.