

## **Pedestrian Safety**

Motorists are always supposed to yield to pedestrians. However, there are occasions when motorists do not stop or slow down for pedestrians in crosswalks, which contribute to the number of motor vehicle-pedestrian crashes every year. Studies have linked this problem to poor visibility at crosswalks, causing pedestrians to be difficult for motorists to see. As a result, many efforts have been made to improve the visibility of pedestrians in crosswalks. Some of the efforts made to warn motorists of possible pedestrian traffic crossing the roadway include:

- Crosswalk lighting.
- Flashing crosswalks.
- Illuminated overhead crosswalk signs coupled with high-visibility crosswalk markings.
- Variations of crosswalk markings such as:
  - Parallel lines;
  - Ladder lines;
  - Continental style lines;
  - Zebra lines;
  - Crosswalks painted completely in white.
- Overhead and side-mounted signs.
- Internally illuminated overhead crosswalk signs coupled with high-visibility crosswalk markings.
- Internally illuminated overhead signs (with an “X” symbol) and beacons that flash when activated by a push button.
- An overhead flashing beacon used in conjunction with a STOP WHEN FLASHING sign.
- Pedestrian safety cone that could be placed in the middle of the crosswalk.

Motorists should be aware that there are various types of indicators for the presence of pedestrians. It is important for a motorist to acknowledge these warnings and to be on alert. These indicators should trigger a motorist to be prepared to stop or slow down for possible pedestrian traffic entering a crosswalk. Just because you don't see a pedestrian right away doesn't mean they are not present.

### **References:**

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Research and Development, Report No. FHWA-RD-00-098

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