

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY INFORMATIONAL SERIES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION #12

How Are Pedestrian Signals Timed to Accommodate Pedestrians?

Crossing the street, particularly at a busy intersection, can be dangerous for pedestrians. Pedestrian signals are designed to make it clear to pedestrians when they should and should not cross.

Meanings of pedestrian-related signals



When the “Walk” symbol (and optional countdown indication) is illuminated, the pedestrian may *start* walking across the intersection. The pedestrian should still check for potential conflicts with turning vehicles.



When the “Don’t Walk” symbol is *flashing* (and the optional countdown timer, if present, continues to run), it is *not safe* for a pedestrian to *start* crossing. However, a pedestrian who is already crossing when the symbol starts to flash should have sufficient time to safely finish.



When the “Don’t Walk” symbol is **constantly illuminated** (and the optional countdown indication is blank), it is *not safe* for a pedestrian to be in the crosswalk.

Supplementing the use of pedestrian signals with caution

Even with the help of pedestrian signals, pedestrians should use caution and look for traffic in all directions before crossing.

For more information

For more information, please contact _____.