

# Crosswalk Safety

in Halifax Regional Municipality



**HALIFAX**  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

*Think safe*  
[www.halifax.ca/traffic](http://www.halifax.ca/traffic)

**Remember: It is the responsibility of every person on the road to use caution, obey traffic controls and **THINK SAFE!****

**Drivers and pedestrians share the responsibility of crosswalk safety**

## **Crosswalk Safety - The Basics**

1. A crosswalk exists at EVERY intersection whether it is painted or not.
2. Drivers **MUST** yield the right of way to pedestrians who are lawfully within a crosswalk.





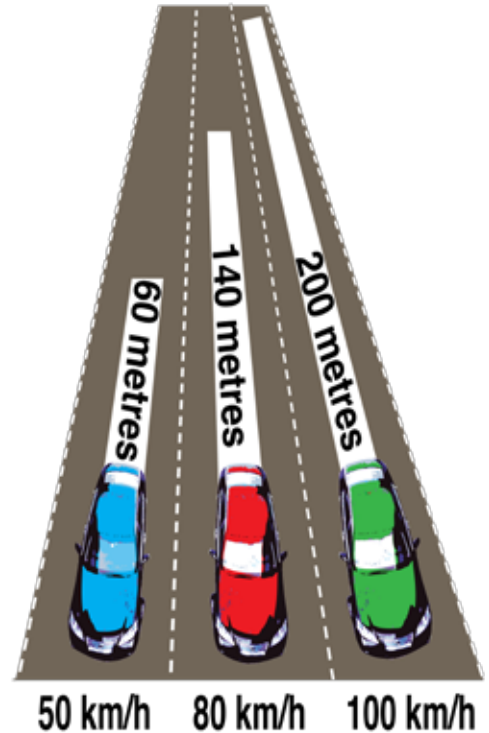
3. Pedestrians should always make the intent to cross the street known and NEVER enter the crosswalk when a vehicle has already entered the intersection. Pedestrians may have the right of way at a crosswalk, but approaching vehicles need to be given enough time to stop. ALWAYS stop, look and listen to ensure vehicles are going to stop before stepping into the street.
4. Pedestrians crossing the street at any location other than a crosswalk MUST yield the right of way to vehicles on the road.
5. If a pedestrian signal has a push-button, it should always be pushed before entering the crosswalk.
6. Drivers must avoid distractions such as cell phones and hand-held devices when driving.
7. It is illegal to pass a vehicle that has stopped at a crosswalk to allow a pedestrian to cross. ALWAYS obey the speed limit and look out for pedestrians.

8. It is an offence to park a vehicle within 5 metres of a crosswalk. Doing so obstructs the visibility of crossing pedestrians and drivers approaching the crosswalk.

## Did you know?

Including reaction time and braking distance:

- A vehicle travelling at 50 km/hr takes more than 60 metres to stop safely (approximately 12 car lengths).
- At 80 km/hr, safe stopping distance increases to 140 metres (more than 1.5 times the length of a football field).
- At 100 km/hr it can take more than 200 metres to come to a safe stop (approximately 40 car lengths).
- In wet or slippery conditions, stopping distances can be 2 to 10 times greater than on dry pavement.





## Types of Crosswalks

**Unmarked Crosswalks** – Provincial legislation indicates that there is a legal crosswalk at every intersection, regardless of whether it is marked with paint or signs. Pedestrians still have the right of way when lawfully within these crosswalks.

**Marked Crosswalks** – Within HRM, marked crosswalks consist of two white lines painted across the road along with four ground mounted pedestrian crosswalk signs (two facing each direction). All marked crosswalks are re-painted every year.

## How does HRM determine where to install a marked crosswalk?

HRM uses criteria set out by the Transportation Association of Canada which state that a crosswalk should only be marked if it meets the following:

- ✓ Pedestrian safety is not compromised (by restricted visibility for both pedestrian and driver or unusual conditions)
- ✓ There is no other marked crosswalk within 200 metres
- ✓ There are over 20 pedestrian crossings per hour in at least one hour of the day
- ✓ Vehicle volume results in fewer than 120 pedestrian crossing opportunities per hour during peak traffic times





**Overhead Illuminated Crosswalk Signs** – These crosswalk signs may be installed at existing marked crosswalk locations where there is:

- ✓ Insufficient illumination
- ✓ High vehicle speed
- ✓ Limited crosswalk visibility

On multi-lane roadways, the overhead illuminated crosswalk sign may be equipped with flashing amber lights that are activated by a push-button. Where these push-button beacons are present, a pedestrian is required to push the button to activate the lights before stepping into the street.

**Pedestrian Half Signals** – A half signal is traffic control device that stops traffic on a major street so pedestrians may cross. The vehicle signal display only faces the major street, while the side streets are controlled by stop signs. Side street traffic must yield to both the major street traffic and the pedestrians.

## **Pedestrian Traffic Signals**

Pedestrian traffic signals are used at intersections where it is necessary to control the sequence of time given to pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Standard pedestrian signals use the following displays:

### ***Steady Walk Symbol***

The pedestrian has the right of way to cross. Always check for oncoming or turning vehicles and then proceed across the intersection.

### ***Flashing Don't Walk Symbol***

The pedestrian still has the right of way if already in the crosswalk when the symbol comes on. If you are in the crosswalk, continue to cross, there will be enough time to complete the crossing. If you are not already in the crosswalk when the symbol appears **DO NOT ENTER THE CROSSWALK.**



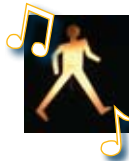


### ***Steady Don't Walk Symbol***

Pedestrians should not be in the crosswalk. **DO NOT ENTER THE CROSSWALK** when this symbol is displayed.



Many intersections with pedestrian traffic signals have push buttons. At these locations, pedestrians should always push the button. If not, the walk symbol may not appear or the crossing time may be too short.



### ***Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS)***

Accessible pedestrian signals are devices added to locations with pedestrian traffic signals in order to allow people with vision loss to use the Walk and Don't Walk signals. These devices provide sounds to indicate when it is safe to cross (a 'coo coo' sound for north/south crossings and the 'Canadian Melody' for east/west crossings). These signals may be used at locations where the crossing is considered to be complex or near public facilities such as hospitals, libraries,

schools or in the downtown cores. The sounds provided by these devices are important to those with vision loss in order to help orient them and make a safe crossing.

### ***Pedestrian Countdown Signals (PCS)***

Pedestrian countdown signals are used in conjunction with conventional pedestrian signals at locations with long crossings (greater than 14 metres). The countdown timer comes on with the Flashing Don't Walk symbol and counts down the amount of time remaining to cross the street before the Steady Don't Walk symbol appears.





## It's the Law

The Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act is the Provincial legislation that defines the rules and responsibilities of all road users. These rules apply to all vehicles (including bicycles) as well as pedestrians when using public roads. The Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act does not relieve the driver of a vehicle (including bicycles) or the pedestrian from exercising due care.

If a pedestrian or driver fails to obey the rules as set out in the Motor Vehicle Act, it could result in serious fines.

[www.nslegislature.ca/legc/statutes/motorv.htm](http://www.nslegislature.ca/legc/statutes/motorv.htm)

## Pay Attention

Using the road requires full concentration – whether driving, walking, cycling or running. There are many distractions (e.g. cell phones and music devices). Use caution and concentrate on the road. Lives depend on it...even your own!

# Contact Information

Questions and comments may be directed to:

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