

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY BACKGROUND



Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety are very important to the City of Federal Way. To facilitate pedestrian mobility and safety throughout the City, effort are continually made by providing proper engineering practices, continued law enforcement and proper guidance to pedestrians. This brochure provides a brief summary of state law and guidance pertaining to pedestrians within the City of Federal Way.

(For purposes of this brochure pedestrian refers to all forms of non-motorized transportation utilizing pedestrian facilities including bicycles, skateboards, etc.)

SAFETY TIPS FOR PEDESTRIANS



- 1.) Crosswalks and traffic signals **DO NOT** stop vehicles!
- 2.) The WALK symbol only means it is the pedestrians turn to cross the road and not that it is safe to cross.
- 3.) Do not suddenly leave the curb and walk into the path of a vehicle which does not have adequate time to stop. Doing so not only puts your life as a pedestrian at risk but is also against the law.
- 4.) Always look both right and left before starting across a crosswalk even if it is your turn to cross. Not all drivers obey traffic signals or properly yield to pedestrians and many are often distracted. Be wary of their actions until they stop and try to make eye contact.
- 5.) Watch your children and never allow them to play in or near traffic.

- 6.) Never allow children to cross the street by themselves. Children may tend to have a false sense of security at marked crosswalks and thus occasionally dart into traffic. Always hold young children's hands when crossing the street.



- 7.) Be alert and consistently watch for turning vehicles. Pay particular attention when crossing driveways verifying that both entering and exiting drivers recognize your presence on the sidewalk prior to continuing.
- 8.) If you desire to use a crosswalk, be predictable by standing near the curb (also allows better visibility of and for the pedestrian). If you do not wish to cross, stand away from the curb.
- 9.) Look very cautiously when stepping past stopped vehicles, particularly on multiple lane approaches. It is illegal for drivers to pass other vehicles stopped at crosswalks for pedestrians, however not all drivers obey traffic laws.

- 10.) Obey pedestrian signals as they are designed for pedestrian safety.
- 11.) When the WALK symbol or pedestrian flasher is initiated, make eye contact with drivers and wait for vehicles to stop prior to entering the intersection. Pay particular attention to right turning vehicles.
- 12.) Do not begin to cross when the DON'T WALK symbol is flashing as there may not be adequate time to complete the crossing.
- 13.) Never walk within the road if sidewalks are present.
- 14.) If no sidewalks are present walk on the left shoulder facing oncoming traffic.



- 15.) If walking near or after dark, wear bright or reflective clothing or carry a flash light. Drivers may only see dark clothing from as little as 50 feet whereas white clothing is visible from up to 180 feet and reflective clothing from up to 500 feet.



- 16.) Be aware that large vehicles can block the view of pedestrians for other vehicles. Never walk into the road if your visibility to drivers is in question.
- 17.) Never walk into the road from between parked vehicles.
- 18.) Take into consideration that larger vehicles take longer to stop.
- 19.) Pedestrians are ultimately (in almost all cases) responsible for their own safety. Always be attentive.
- 20.) Thank courteous drivers with a wave and a smile.



BASIC PRINCIPLES OF WASHINGTON STATE PEDESTRIAN LAWS

Per RCW chapter 46.61 "Rules of the Road", the following laws apply to pedestrians:

- 1.) Unmarked Crosswalk locations:
 - a. Exist at extension of sidewalk or road edge at all public roadway intersections unless signed to prohibit pedestrian crossings.
 - b. Pedestrians shall not cross an intersection diagonally unless a marked crosswalk exists to allow such movement.
 - c. Pedestrians shall not suddenly leave the curb to cross a crosswalk into the path of a vehicle which does not have proper time to stop for them.
 - d. Approaching vehicles, when a pedestrian is within roadway, shall stop and remain stopped while the pedestrian is upon or

within one lane of the roadway half in which the vehicle is traveling.

- e. When any vehicle is stopped at an unmarked crosswalk to allow a pedestrian to cross, no vehicle shall pass the stopped vehicle.
- 2.) Marked Crosswalks with and without Pedestrian Flasher System:
 - a. Pedestrians shall walk only within the marked crosswalk.
 - b. Pedestrians shall not suddenly leave curb to cross a crosswalk into the path of a vehicle which does not have proper time to stop.
 - c. Approaching vehicles, when a pedestrian is within a marked crosswalk, shall stop and remain stopped while the pedestrian is upon or within one lane of the roadway half in which the vehicle is traveling.
 - d. When any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk to allow a pedestrian to cross, no vehicle shall pass the stopped vehicle.
 - 3.) Crosswalks at Traffic Signals:
 - a. Pedestrians shall walk only within the marked crosswalk.
 - b. Pedestrians shall begin to cross only when given the WALK symbol. Conflicting vehicles must stop for pedestrians during this time.
 - c. When signals display a steady or flashing DON'T WALK symbol, pedestrians shall continue crossing but not begin to cross.
 - d. No pedestrians shall cross a roadway between adjacent intersections at which traffic control signals are in operation.



PEDESTRIAN COLLISION FACTS & DATA



2008 Pedestrian Collision Data

Type	USA	WA	Federal Way
Fatalities	4,378	63	0
Injuries	69,000	3100	43

-A significant number of pedestrian accidents are never reported to the police.

Did You Know?

- Nationwide, on average, a pedestrian is killed in a traffic collision every 120 minutes and injured every 8 minutes.
- Most pedestrian fatalities occur in urban areas at non-intersection locations, during normal weather conditions at night.
- More than two-thirds of pedestrians killed tend to be males.
- Alcohol was involved (pedestrian and/or driver) in 48% of pedestrian fatalities.
- Pedestrians hit by a vehicle going 25mph or less have an 85%-90% survival rate.
- Pedestrians hit by a vehicle going over 25mph are killed 85%-90% of the time.

Washington Pedestrian Fatality Data Trends (2006-2008):

- 62% occur at non-intersections.
- 28% are individuals over the age of 65.
- 57% occur on weekdays with 28% of those occurring between 3pm & 6 pm and another 30% between 6pm & midnight.
- 70% of weekend fatalities occur between 6pm & 3am.
- 25% involved a pedestrian with blood alcohol content over the legal limit to drive.
- Main pedestrian collision factors:
 - 31% = Improper crossing of roadway or intersection
 - 26% = Pedestrian Not Visible
 - 19% = Playing, walking or working in the roadway
 - 13% = Inattention (talking, eating, etc.)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY RESOURCES

Washington Traffic Safety Commission – Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety:

<http://www.wtsc.wa.gov/programs/walkbike.php>

Manuel of Uniform Traffic Control Devices:

http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/hdm/2003r1r2/html_index.htm

WSDOT – Walking in Washington:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/walk>

Pedestrian Information Center:

<http://www.walkinginfo.org>

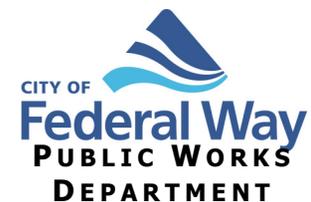
Revised Code of Washington – Rules of the Road:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=46.61>

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



Tips, Laws, Facts and Resources to Educate and Encourage Safe Non-Motorized Mobility of City of Federal Way Residents.



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