

SAFETY GUIDE FOR PEDESTRIANS

VISION ZERO ROAD SAFETY PLAN



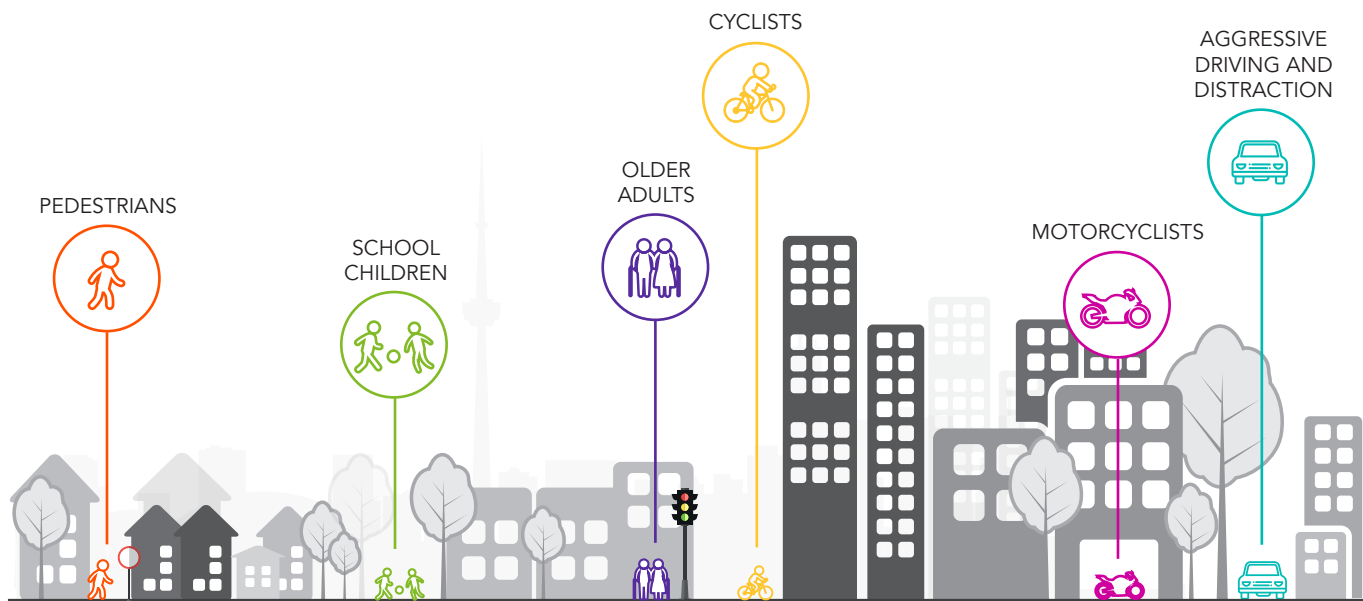
Toronto's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan is a five year \$80 million action plan to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries on City of Toronto roads. The City is committed to Vision Zero and supports its fundamental message: "Fatalities and serious injuries on our roads are preventable, and we must strive to reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries to zero".

The Vision Zero Road Safety Plan is a comprehensive plan that includes more than 45 new and enhanced Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Evaluation,

Engagement and Technology safety countermeasures associated with six emphasis areas. The six emphasis areas identified in the plan focus on vulnerable road users and includes Older Adults, School Children and Pedestrians.

This brochure contains information about:

- Pedestrian Signals
- Accessible Pedestrian Signals
- Pedestrian Crossovers
- General Pedestrian Safety Tips



PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS AND PUSH BUTTONS

PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS



Walk

If you haven't started:

- Start crossing
- Stay alert and watch for turning vehicles

If you have started:

- Continue and finish crossing



Flashing Don't Walk (with Countdown Timers)

If you haven't started:

- Do not start to cross
- Push the button if a push button is present
- Wait for the next walk signal

If you have started:

- Continue and finish crossing



Don't Walk

- Do not cross
- Push the button if a push button is present
- Wait for the next walk signal



PEDESTRIAN PUSH BUTTONS



- Where push buttons are provided, it is always safer for pedestrians to push the button. At some locations, the walk signal will not appear if the button is not pushed.
- After pushing the button, pedestrians must wait for the walk signal. The moment the button is pushed, the traffic control system is recalculating and adjusting surrounding traffic signals. The time it takes for the signal to change can vary from a few seconds to two minutes.
- Always follow the walk, flashing don't walk and don't walk signals, not the red/amber/green traffic signals. Signal timings for vehicles are different than for pedestrians and you may not have enough time to cross.

DID YOU KNOW?

Zebra Markings are used at intersections and pedestrian crossovers to enhance the visibility of pedestrians in crosswalks. Pedestrians should stay within the crosswalk while crossing streets. This is where you will be most clearly visible to drivers and where drivers will expect to see pedestrians.

Only one push of the push button is required to activate the walk signal.

Not everyone crosses at the same speed so pedestrians should carefully judge their crossing times so they can safely reach the other side. Flashing don't walk signals are now accompanied by countdown timers that display the number of seconds remaining for pedestrians to complete their crossing. When the countdown reaches zero, pedestrians must have completed their crossing. The City also adjusts signal timing and pedestrian crossing times at intersections based on user needs.

ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS AND PUSH BUTTONS

ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS

- Toronto is installing accessible pedestrian signals (APS) at all signalized intersections.
- APS advise people with low or no vision, or who are deaf-blind when they have the right-of-way to cross the intersection and in which direction they may cross the intersection.
- APS are linked to the visual pedestrian signals.

PUSH BUTTON

- Traffic signals equipped with APS are accompanied by push buttons that: 1) Emit a continuous sound called a locator tone to assist people with low or no vision in locating the push buttons; 2) Are equipped with a raised arrow vibro-tactile indicator that points in the direction of travel to assist people who are deaf-blind.
- The push button must be held for three seconds to activate the APS. The push button will respond with a kickback indicating that the APS has been activated. A red light will appear indicating that the call for a pedestrian signal has been received.
- The APS sounds and locator tones automatically adjust to ambient sound levels. Therefore, during peak traffic conditions, they may sound louder; overnight they drop to their lowest set volume level.

AUDIBLE AND VISUAL PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL



Walk

Audible Signal: CHIRP or CUCKOO

- Start crossing
- CUCKOO sound = Pedestrians may cross in the north/south direction
- CHIRP sound = Pedestrians may cross in the east/west direction



Flashing Don't Walk

Audible Signal: SILENCE

- Do not start crossing
- Finish crossing if already started




Don't Walk

Audible Signal: SILENCE

- Do not cross





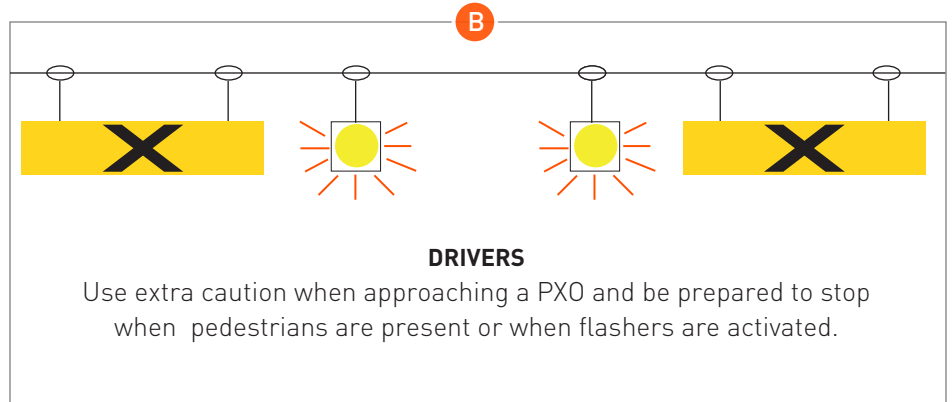
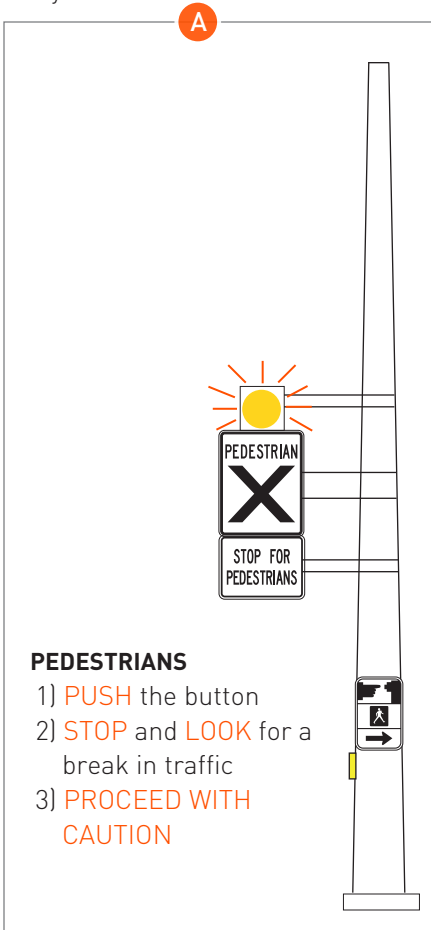
People with low or no vision, or who are deaf-blind may still appreciate assistance in crossing the street, even with APS. Before assisting someone to cross the street, ASK FIRST and then offer them your elbow. Be sure to obey traffic signals and pay attention to traffic turning across your path.

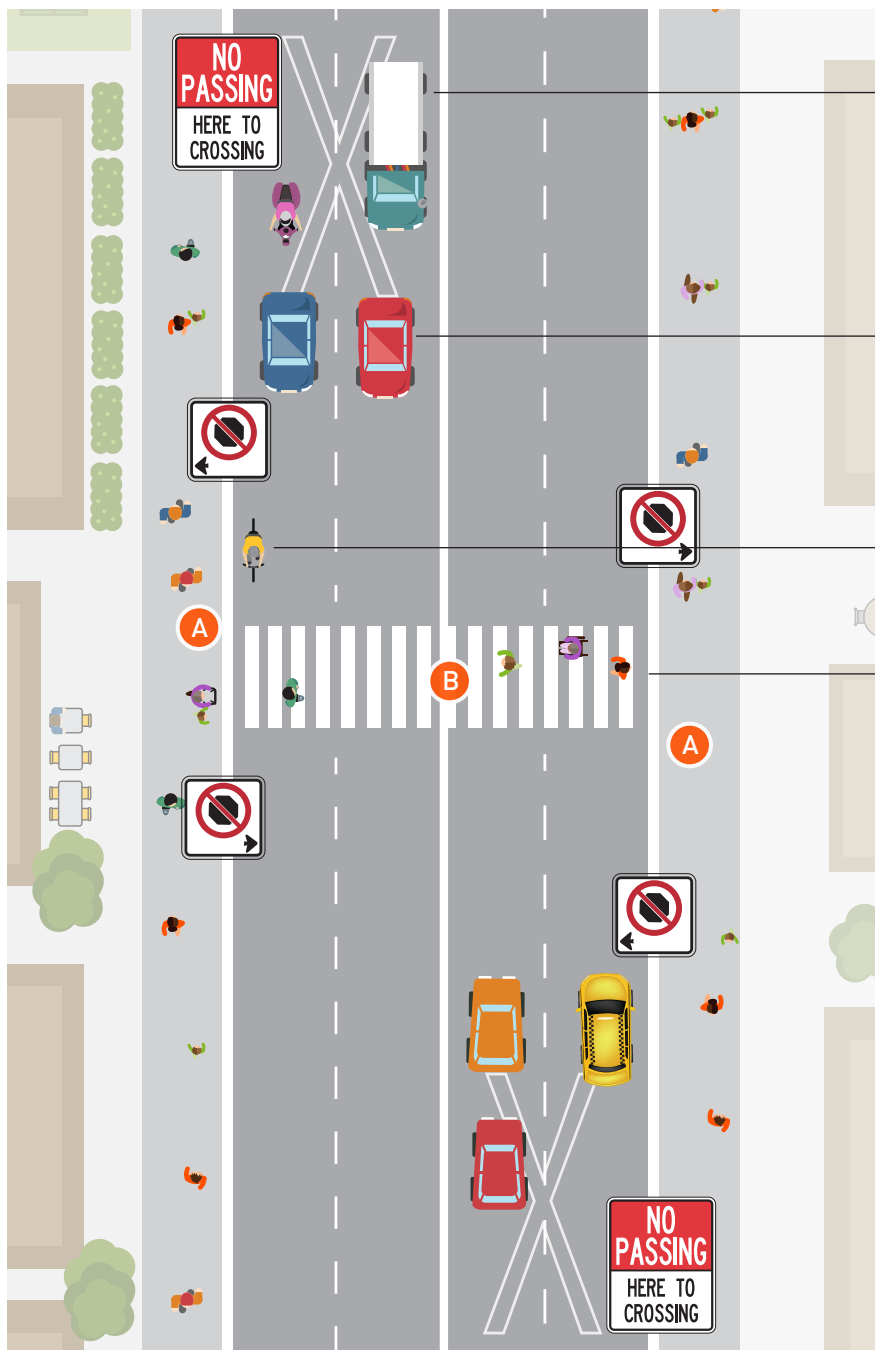
Where curb ramps or depressed curbs are provided at pedestrian crossings, Toronto is installing Tactile Walking Surface Indicators to assist people with low or no vision, or who are deaf-blind in crossing the intersection.

DID YOU KNOW?

PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVERS (PXO)

- Pedestrian crossovers (PXO) are designated crosswalks that allow pedestrians to safely cross roads where there are no traffic signals.
- These crosswalks are equipped with overhead yellow lights that warn drivers and cyclists that pedestrians will be crossing when the overhead and side mounted flashers are activated by a push button.
- Drivers and cyclists must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians in the crossover.
- Cyclists must dismount when using the crosswalk.





DRIVER

Do not pass or change lanes within 30 metres of a PXO.

DRIVER

Protect pedestrian visibility. Do not park or stop at the curb within 15 metres approaching or nine metres beyond a PXO.

CYCLISTS

Dismount when using the crosswalk and stay within the crossover area.

PEDESTRIANS

Stay within the crossover area.

DID YOU KNOW?

As of January 1, 2016, drivers and cyclists in both directions must wait until pedestrians have completely cleared the entire width of the crossing before moving forward at PXOs and locations controlled by school crossing guards.

DID YOU KNOW?

Pedestrians are not recommended to cross mid-block at uncontrolled locations where drivers are not expecting to encounter pedestrians. It's safer to cross the street at traffic signals, PXOs, school crossings with a crossing guard present or at intersections with stop signs.

WHAT DO PEDESTRIANS AND DRIVERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PXOS?

PEDESTRIANS

Push the Button | By pushing the button at a PXO, you activate the overhead and side mounted flashing amber lights to warn approaching traffic that the crossover is about to be in use.

Stop and Look | Before starting to cross, look for a break in traffic that will permit vehicles time to stop safely and to permit your crossing.

Walk – Proceed with Caution | Once you have begun your crossing, look ahead and check to make sure that the lane you are about to enter is safe to cross. Remember that larger vehicles may block you from being seen by other drivers in other lanes.

Make Eye Contact If Possible | Make eye contact with drivers.

Don't Delay | Safety is the primary concern. Use care and caution while crossing - but also proceed promptly.

Obey Crossing Guards | Obey crossing guards who are responsible for balancing pedestrian and vehicular traffic to keep both moving smoothly.

Be Courteous | Don't stand near the curb at a PXO unless you intend to use it. Drivers could mistake someone standing beside a PXO as a pedestrian intending to cross and brake unexpectedly, potentially leading to a collision.

DRIVERS

Be Alert | Use extra caution approaching a PXO. Watch for the flashing amber lights and pedestrians standing at the side of the road. Most importantly, be prepared to stop for pedestrians about to step onto the road or already within the crossover.

Stop | Drivers must obey the flashing lights and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians within a PXO **for the entire width of the crosswalk.**

Be Safe | Operate your vehicle in a PXO area at a speed that will allow you to stop safely if a PXO is activated, particularly in conditions such as snow, ice or rain that may result in longer braking distances.

Make Eye Contact If Possible | For many reasons, not all pedestrians can make eye contact with drivers. Drivers should be cautious when approaching a PXO and should not rely on pedestrians to make eye contact.

Be Patient | Inclement weather, older adults, young children and other factors may reduce a pedestrian's walking speed. Give PXO users the time to cross safely and comfortably.

Stay Alert | After stopping for a PXO and before continuing, observe the PXO area carefully. Look for other pedestrians who may have entered the PXO.

No Passing | Do not change lanes approaching a PXO. Obey the no passing laws in effect within 30 metres of a PXO.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TIPS

- Always start crossing at the beginning of the walk signal to maximize the time to cross the street.
- Stop, look and listen for traffic in both directions.
- Consider walking to and from school in pairs or groups to make the trip more fun while increasing visibility to drivers.
- Obey crossing guards and stopped school buses with flashing overhead red signals.
- Use sidewalks wherever possible.
- Walk on the part of the sidewalk furthest away from the curb.
- Where there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic and as far back from the edge of the road as possible.
- Younger children should always cross with an adult.
- Look and listen for vehicles reversing out of driveways and laneways e.g. white reverse light and/or beeping sounds.
- Stand back from the roadway while waiting to cross. Don't stand on or right beside the curb.
- Walk, don't run, while crossing the street. By running, you risk tripping and falling in the middle of the road.

DID YOU KNOW?



Toronto typically experiences an increase in pedestrian Killed and Serious Injury (KSI) collisions in October and November each year when daylight hours decrease. Pedestrians and drivers should be more cautious in darkness.