

## A GUIDE TO OREGON CROSSWALK LAWS

# *Your* RESPONSIBILITY AS A DRIVER

Oregon's crosswalk laws are designed to give pedestrians time and space to get safely across the street. They help us all get where we're going safely.

### Know the crosswalk laws

- In Oregon, every intersection is a crosswalk<sup>3</sup> – whether it's marked or not.
- Crosswalks may also exist between intersections (mid-block), but only when marked with painted white lines.
- By law, a pedestrian is in a crosswalk when any part of the pedestrian moves into the roadway, at a crosswalk, with the intent to proceed.<sup>4</sup>
- That includes not only the pedestrian's body, but also a wheelchair, cane, crutch, bicycle or any other extension of the person.
- A driver may be cited and fined more than \$250 for failing to stop for a pedestrian.

### Additional tips for drivers

- Slow Down – Expect that you may encounter pedestrians and slow down ahead of time. Be prepared to stop when approaching crosswalks.
- Drive at slower speeds in rainy weather and poorly lit areas.
- Always have an eye out for pedestrians, **especially during dark hours or times of low visibility such as when it is raining.**

### Make sure you stop and remain stopped:

**At any crosswalk** – marked or unmarked – until people walking have cleared your lane, plus the lane next to you.

**When turning at a traffic signal**, until people crossing have cleared the lane you are turning into and at least six feet of the next lane.

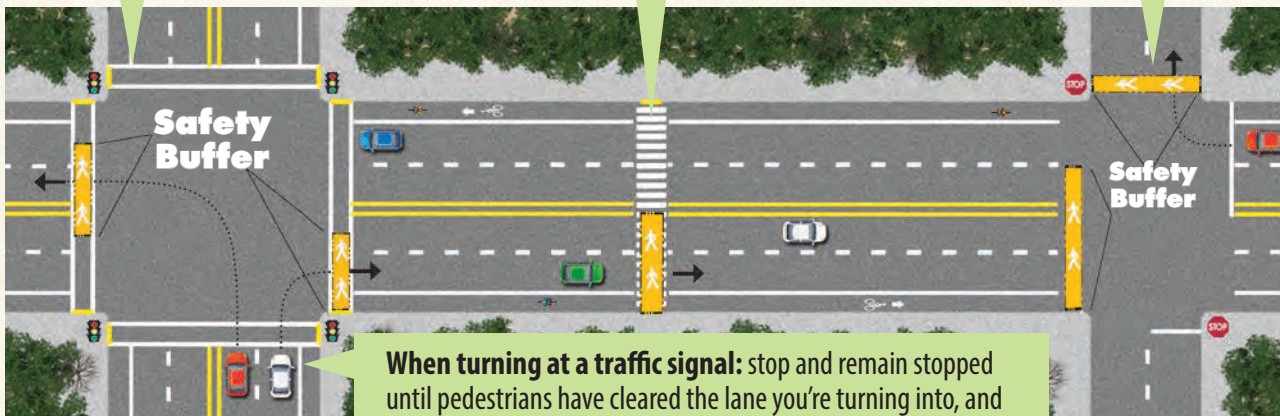
**In school zones**, as directed by crossing guards.

**For people who are blind** (using a white cane or a guide dog), until they are completely across the roadway.

Marked Crosswalks

Mid-block Crosswalk

Unmarked Crosswalks



<sup>3</sup> ORS 801.220  
<sup>4</sup> ORS Chapter 811

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YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES  
AS A DRIVER AND PEDESTRIAN



**Share the road. The Way to Go.**  
Transportation Safety – ODOT



## A GUIDE TO OREGON CROSSWALK LAWS

# Your RESPONSIBILITIES AS A PEDESTRIAN

### Know the pedestrian laws

In Oregon, if you suddenly leave a curb or place of safety and step into oncoming traffic creating an immediate hazard, you may be held responsible.<sup>1</sup> Also, if you cross the roadway at any point other than a marked crosswalk or intersection, and you fail to yield the right of way to a vehicle, you may be cited.<sup>2</sup> A pedestrian does not always have the right of way and can be cited and fined \$120 or more.

### Obey the Signals

Every intersection is considered a pedestrian crosswalk, whether it's marked or not. If you cross a street outside a crosswalk, you must yield to motor vehicle traffic. Obey all pedestrian signals at the intersection:



- **White walk signal or green light = It's your turn to go, but you should still check for traffic**



- **A flashing hand = It's too late to start but fine to continue if you've begun crossing**



- **A solid red hand = you must wait to cross**



### Cross with Caution

Just because you have a walk signal does not mean that people driving are stopped or will stop. Only start crossing after you have looked for traffic in all directions.

- Always be on the lookout for drivers. When crossing a street, always look left-right-left.
- Continue to watch for traffic as you cross the street—especially for turning vehicles.
- Walk—don't run—across the street.
- Be extra alert when walking across driveways, alleys and through parking lots.

When crossing multiple lanes of traffic, don't assume all lanes of traffic will stop, even if you are at a crosswalk with traffic lights. As you are crossing each lane, check to make sure the driver is stopped.

### Be Clear to Drivers

- Be predictable. Try to make eye contact or signal your intention to cross to people driving.
- Before stepping out, signal your intent to cross by putting out a foot, arm or cane.
- Before you cross, establish eye contact with drivers. If you are not sure the driver sees you, let the vehicle go first.
- If you don't want to cross, step back from the edge of the roadway.

### Stay Alert

There is a lot happening on Oregon's roads, so paying attention is important.

- Avoid distractions like texting, talking on your phone or listening to headphones.
- Don't step out from between parked cars, and make sure to look for signs that a parked car is about to move—rear lights, engine sound or wheels turning.
- Watch for cars entering or exiting driveways or backing up in parking lots. Pay special attention to hybrids, which can be nearly silent.

### Go Against the Flow

Use the sidewalk whenever there is one, make sure you walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic.

- If there is no sidewalk, walk on the shoulder, facing oncoming traffic. Stay as far to the left as possible.
- Don't step out into moving traffic, even if you think you have the right of way. It's always safer to wait for all vehicles to stop before crossing.
- Keep in mind drivers may not see you so BE PREDICTABLE.



<sup>1</sup> ORS 814.020

<sup>2</sup> ORS 814.040