What is a crosswalk?

According to *Oregon Revised Statute 801.220*, a crosswalk exists at any public road intersection, whether marked or unmarked. Crosswalks also may exist at other locations along the roadway, such as mid-block, but marking the crosswalk is required at these other locations.

The nationally accepted minimum standards for crosswalks are described in the *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. The manual calls for crosswalks markings to be white, either solid transverse lines, or longitudinal or diagonal lines extending the full width of the pavement.

How do crosswalks come about?

An engineering study and State Traffic Engineer approval are required before a crosswalk is established on a state highway, with the exceptions of crosswalks at stop signs and traffic signals. A written request must be made to the ODOT Region Traffic Manager for that part of Oregon; contact information is listed on the back panel.

For more information, and for guidance on installing crosswalks and addressing crossing strategies, refer to the *ODOT Traffic Manual*. You can find the manual online at *www.oregon.gov/odot/hwy/traffic-roadway/docs/pdf/Traffic_Manual_08.pdf*.

Region Traffic Manager contact information

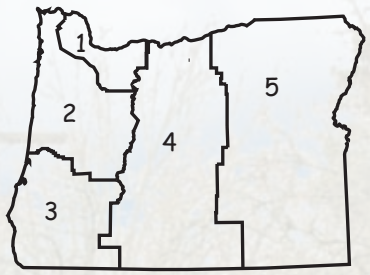
Portland Metro and surrounding areas
(ODOT Region 1) — (503) 731-8200

Salem, Willamette Valley and North Coast
(ODOT Region 2) — (503) 986-2600

Roseburg, Rogue Valley and South Coast
(ODOT Region 3) — (541) 957-3656

Bend and Central Oregon
(ODOT Region 4) — (541) 388-6180

Pendleton and Eastern Oregon
(ODOT Region 5) — (541) 963-3177



Contact us:

ODOT TRAFFIC-ROADWAY SECTION
355 Capitol St. NE, Fifth Floor
Salem, OR 97301-3871

Phone: (503) 986-3568
Fax: (503) 986-4063
Web site: *www.oregon.gov/odot/TS/docs/pedestrian/crosswalk_safety_tool.pdf*

Form 734-2701 (5/08) Stock # 330547

Crosswalks

A Safety Tool For Everyone

How travelers benefit from crosswalks

Oregon Department of Transportation

Learning about crosswalks

Crosswalks are an important tool in traffic flow and pedestrian safety. The Oregon Department of Transportation encourages you to learn more about the advantages and disadvantages of crosswalks and how it is determined whether a particular crosswalk should be marked.

Advantages of crosswalks

Marking a crosswalk can be a significant way to improve pedestrian safety and make it easier to cross a roadway. Walking is an important means of travel, and pedestrians should be able to use the system safely and without unreasonable delay.

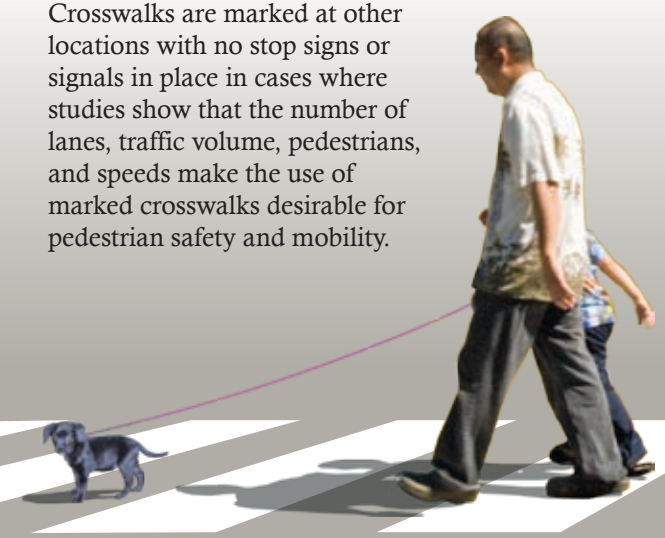
Why is it important to mark crosswalks appropriately? It's because while pedestrian-vehicle crashes are rare, the risk of injury is high — and at speeds of 30 mph or more, severe injury is almost a certainty.

Crosswalks are typically found at:

Traffic signals and stop signs — Marked pedestrian crosswalks are used to direct pedestrians to the proper crossing location and prevent motor-vehicle traffic from blocking the pedestrian path.

School zones — At locations with no traffic signals, marked crosswalks are used to designate the safest locations for children to cross on their way to and from school.

Crosswalks are marked at other locations with no stop signs or signals in place in cases where studies show that the number of lanes, traffic volume, pedestrians, and speeds make the use of marked crosswalks desirable for pedestrian safety and mobility.



Disadvantages of crosswalks

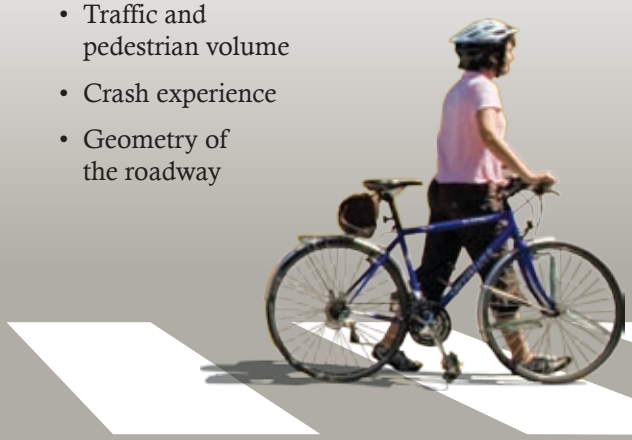
Unmarked crosswalks appear to be safer for pedestrians. Older studies have suggested that it is safer for pedestrians when the crosswalk is left unmarked at locations with no stop signs or signals in place. More recent studies indicate that marked crosswalks at locations with multiple lanes and heavier traffic actually have higher rates of pedestrian-vehicle crashes than similar locations with unmarked crosswalks.

There are other tools for improving pedestrian safety. In addition to crosswalks, traffic-calming techniques should be considered to encourage drivers to travel at appropriate speeds and improve pedestrian safety. Pedestrian islands and curb extensions, to name two examples, are effective tools for increasing pedestrian safety. Enhanced markings and advance stop lines also may reduce multiple-threat crashes, which occur when one lane stops and a second lane in the same direction does not.

Allowing proliferation of marked crosswalks may reduce the overall effectiveness of crosswalks, so it is important to make sure crosswalks are placed correctly.

Things to consider when marking crosswalks

The decision to mark a crosswalk involves evaluation of numerous elements. In the end, the real question is, "What re the most effective measures to enhance safe pedestrian crossings?"

An engineering study will review these elements when marking a crosswalk is under consideration:

- Traffic speeds
- Crossing distance
- Number of lanes
- Visibility
- Reducing conflicts
- Special needs of nearby vulnerable or at-risk pedestrians
- Proper signing
- Lighting
- Traffic and pedestrian volume
- Crash experience
- Geometry of the roadway