

CROSSWALKS

WHAT ARE THE OFFICIAL GUIDELINES?

The City of Yorba Linda follows the guidelines and standards prescribed in the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) 2003 as amended by the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement. All aspects of the placement, construction and maintenance of approved traffic control are covered in this Manual.

WHAT IS A CROSSWALK?

Crosswalks are either marked or unmarked. The California Vehicle Code defines a "crosswalk" as the portion of a roadway at an intersection, which is an extension of the curb and property lines of the intersecting street (i.e. extension of the sidewalk) or is any other portion of a roadway, which is marked as a pedestrian crossing location by painted lines.

A marked crosswalk is any crosswalk, which is delineated by white or yellow painted markings placed on the pavement. All other crosswalk locations are therefore unmarked.

HOW SECURE ARE YOU IN A CROSSWALK?

Crosswalks are marked mainly to encourage pedestrians to use a particular crossing and to allow the local agency to advise the motorist, through advance signing, of possible increased pedestrian activity. However, pedestrians may feel overly secure using a marked crosswalk and may aggressively place themselves in a hazardous position by mistakenly believing that the vehicle can and will stop. By contrast, a pedestrian using an unmarked crosswalk feels less secure and exercises more caution in waiting for safe gaps in traffic before crossing. The key to a safe crossing is to see and be seen.

COLLISIONS AT MARKED CROSSWALKS

Recent research indicates that on multi-lane streets carrying volumes higher than 12,000 vehicles per day, pedestrian collisions at uncontrolled locations are higher at marked versus unmarked crosswalks especially on higher speed facilities. This is because pedestrians often step off the curb into the crosswalk expecting drivers of vehicles approaching the crosswalk to stop. However, drivers frequently fail to or cannot stop in time to avoid an accident.

At all crosswalks, both marked and unmarked, it is the pedestrian's responsibility to be cautious and alert before starting to cross the street. Eye contact is the key. A pedestrian can stop instantly while a vehicle traveling at 35 MPH will require approximately 100 ft. to stop.

Another frequent factor in causing accidents involves the driver of a vehicle in the lane nearest to the curb stopping for a pedestrian that is waiting to cross or who is already in the crosswalk. The driver of a second vehicle traveling in the lane next to the stopped vehicle passes the stopped vehicle and hits the pedestrian crossing the street. Pedestrians should be very cautious when walking in a crosswalk, especially when vehicles already stopped at the crosswalk limit the visibility of the pedestrian for approaching traffic.

WHERE ARE CROSSWALKS NORMALLY MARKED?

Crosswalks are marked at intersections where there is substantial conflict between vehicle and pedestrian movements, where significant pedestrian concentrations occur, where pedestrians could not otherwise recognize the proper place to cross, and where traffic movements are controlled.

Examples of such locations are:

- ✓ Approved school crossings.
- ✓ Signalized and four way stop intersections.

Generally, it is not desired to paint crosswalks at mid-block locations where traffic is not controlled by stop signs or traffic signals. Painted crosswalks should only be used where necessary to direct pedestrians to the safest crossing point.



WHAT ARE SPECIAL SCHOOL CROSSWALKS?

Marked crosswalks established adjacent to a school building or school grounds must be painted yellow. Other marked crosswalks may be painted yellow if not more than 600 feet from a school building or grounds.

Crosswalks should be marked at all intersections on the suggested safe route to school. They should also be marked where there is high conflict between vehicles and students crossing streets en route to and from school.

The best safety measure is to educate children on how and where to safely cross the street.



REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

If you have questions, requests or suggestions concerning crosswalks, please call the Traffic/Transportation Division at **(714) 961-7170** or via email: twang@yorba-linda.org