



A Driver's Guide to Safer Street Crossings

Stay Alert. Slow Down. Yield.

Blind and low vision pedestrians cross streets independently. These simple practices can support safer street crossings.

When Approaching an Intersection

- Stay alert: Watch for pedestrians using a long white cane or a guide dog wearing a harness with a rigid handle. Both signal that the pedestrian is blind or has low vision.
- Slow down: Reducing your speed gives you more time to assess the situation and respond safely.
- Check carefully before turning: Scan the entire crossing, then check again, especially when making a right turn on red.

When a Pedestrian Is Waiting to Cross

- Be predictable: Follow traffic laws, including applicable white cane laws, so pedestrians can better anticipate how traffic will move.
- Come to a complete stop when yielding: Pedestrians often use traffic sounds and vehicle movement to assess a crossing. Eye contact, gestures, horns, and shouted instructions are generally not helpful.
- Be patient: Allow time to decide when it is safe to cross. Pedestrians may pause to gather information or step back to wait for another opportunity. Proceed cautiously when lawful and safe.

When a Pedestrian Is Crossing

- Remain stopped: Wait until the pedestrian has safely crossed the road. Moving forward while a pedestrian is still crossing can cause uncertainty and interfere with interpreting traffic sounds.
- Keep the crossing clear: Leave space for a straight, predictable path. Blocking the crossing can force the pedestrian into moving traffic and disrupt orientation.

A note about quiet vehicles: Electric, hybrid, and auto start-stop equipped vehicles can provide fewer sound cues. Pedestrians who rely on traffic sounds may have more difficulty detecting a vehicle's presence and movement.



Learn more at EveryCrossingCounts.org