

Rules of the Road

CHAPTER 5: SHARING THE ROAD

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Pedestrians

Without a vehicle or protective equipment, pedestrians are most at risk in traffic. Drivers and pedestrians both are responsible for traffic safety. A simple rule is that drivers should always be prepared to yield the right-of way to pedestrians. [More information on pedestrian right-of-way.](#)

Traffic Signals, Walklights and Crossings

Pedestrians must yield the right-of-way to drivers by obeying traffic signals, observing walk lights and using crosswalks.



Walk (constantly lighted) – Pedestrians facing the signal may cross the roadway in the direction of the signal.



Don't Walk (flashing) – Pedestrians may not start entering the roadway. A pedestrian who has partly completed crossing during the constantly lighted WALK may continue to a sidewalk or safety island.

Don't Walk (constantly lighted) – Pedestrians may not enter the roadway.

Yellow Light (constant) – Pedestrians may not cross unless directed by a pedestrian control sign or police officer.

Crossing a Road

When crossing at any place other than a marked or unmarked crosswalk, pedestrians must give the right-of-way to drivers. This includes between closely-spaced intersections where traffic signals are in operation.

Tunnel and Pedestrian Crossings

A pedestrian tunnel or pedestrian crossing bridge should be used when available.

Roadways

Pedestrians must not walk on a roadway unless there is no sidewalk or shoulder next to it. Under these conditions, pedestrians should always walk as close to the outside edge of the road as possible. In two-way traffic, pedestrians should walk facing oncoming traffic. If a highway does not have a sidewalk but has a shoulder, pedestrians should always walk on the shoulder as far from the roadway as possible. Pedestrians should not walk on a highway when under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

Hitchhiking

Hitchhiking is standing on the roadway to ask for a ride. It is illegal to hitchhike. If convicted, a pedestrian may be fined up to \$2,500 and given a jail sentence of up to one year.

Soliciting

Pedestrians should not stand on or next to a highway to ask drivers or passengers for the following:

- employment or business.
- contributions, unless allowed by a permit issued by a city or town.
- money for guarding or watching any vehicle while parked or about to be parked.

If convicted for soliciting, a pedestrian may be fined up to \$2,500 and given a jail sentence of up to one year.

Joggers and Walkers

Joggers and walkers should use jogging paths when provided. On public roads, joggers should try to select wide roads with good shoulders. They should face oncoming traffic and remember to look and listen for cars. At night or anytime visibility is poor, joggers and walkers should be in well-lighted areas and wear reflective clothing.

