

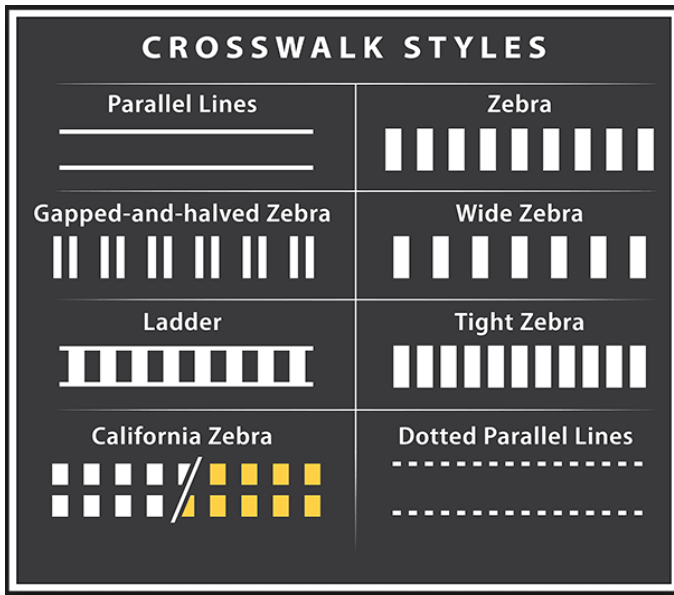
# MARKED CROSSWALKS

**Public Works Agency  
Transportation Department**  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009-1620



## WHAT IS A CROSSWALK?

Crosswalks is defined as the portion of a roadway that is an extension of the curb and property lines of the intersecting street or at any other portion of a roadway marked as a pedestrian crossing location by painted lines. By state law, there are crosswalks at every intersection unless it is prohibited by sign. A crosswalk, therefore, is either marked or unmarked. If a crosswalk is marked, the markings are either white or yellow. Yellow crosswalks are reserved for schools (K-12). The crosswalk markings can as simple as two lines typically 10'-12' apart or with "ladder" or "continental" style. See figure below:



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
- Other locations with high pedestrian traffic such as parks, market, etc.

## MOST COUNTY ROADWAYS DO NOT HAVE SIDEWALKS, WHERE DO I WALK AND HOW DO I CROSS?

Majority of county roadways do not have sidewalks. By state law, pedestrians is required to walk on the left-side of the road facing oncoming vehicular traffic. This will allow

pedestrians to see oncoming traffic and react accordingly to be safe. Although many county roadways have higher speed limits, the good news is that county roadways are typically a narrow two-lane highway with low traffic volumes. This condition provides larger gaps between traffic that makes it easier for pedestrian to cross the street. Where it exists, pedestrians should always cross at nearby traffic signal or a 4-way stop controls. Pedestrians may cross the roadway where it is not prohibited by signs. Although, state law gives pedestrian the right-of-way when crossing an intersection, at both marked and unmarked locations, it is the pedestrian's responsibility to be cautious and alert before starting to cross the street.

### **WHAT ABOUT ENHANCED CROSSWALK TREATMENTS?**

Warranted crosswalk location that meets the state guidelines but is located at streets with high vehicular speed greater than 25 mph or have higher than 10,000 vehicles per day may be eligible for crosswalk enhancements such as rapid rectangular flashing beacons, ladder style crosswalks, and advance limit lines.

### **HOW CAN I GET A MARKED CROSSWALK? IF REQUEST IS DENIED WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE?**

The County prefers placing marked crosswalks at locations controlled by a stop sign or traffic signals. However, the County could consider placement of crosswalks at uncontrolled locations if there is high daily and continuous pedestrian demand to cross. The type of crosswalk will depend on many factors, such as the number of lanes to cross, the amount and speed of conflicting vehicular traffic and other factors. If this is at a location where cross-vehicular traffic speed and volume is high, the crosswalk may need to be enhanced for greater emphasis. Such crosswalk enhancements may include "ladder" style crosswalk, flashing beacons, in-roadway warning, up to a full traffic control either with a stop sign or traffic signal. Engineering consideration to make final determination of the crosswalk location and design will also include wheel chair accessibility in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act.

Request for a marked crosswalk is difficult to justify if there is not an adequate amount of pedestrians crossing the street that meets the state guidelines. In cases where pedestrian crossing demand is below the threshold, the County may consider installing "pedestrian crossing" warning sign to alert motorists of random pedestrian crossing in the area.

### **WHAT IS THE HARM OF INSTALLING A MARKED CROSSWALK TO FACILITATE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AND ENHANCED SAFETY?**

The County as a public agency is required to follow state law with regards to the placement of any traffic control devices. Or design features. Non-compliance with state law could expose the County to potential legal liability. The basis for the state law is based on numerous traffic studies that indicates that arbitrary installation of crosswalks may create an environment where pedestrian need not exercise due care while crossing the street. The belief that pedestrians have the right-of-way may create an expectation that motorists will always yield to pedestrians while crossing.

## WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS TO BE SAFE AS A PEDESTRIAN?

- Dress to be seen. Bright colored clothing is more visible during the day and light colors are more visible during the evening and nighttime hours. You may also want to wear clothing or shoes that have reflective strips sewn in the fabric for better visibility when walking at night. (Caps, bands and vests with reflective strips are also recommended.)



**Be Safe. Be Smart. Be Seen.**  
**Make Sure Drivers Can See You.**

- Be keenly aware of their surroundings when crossing a street especially when their visibility is limited by vehicles already stopped at the crosswalk.



## REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

If you have questions, requests, or suggestions, please call the Transportation Department at: **(805) 654-2049** or through the "Contact Us" link at: <http://www.countyofventura.org>