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The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that on average, a pedestrian is killed in a traffic crash every 120 minutes and injured in a traffic crash every 8 minutes.



## Sharing the Road

While most of us travel streets by car, many people don't have that option or choose other methods of transport. In order for non-drivers to travel independently, they may need to use streets and sidewalks to walk to their destination or transit options.

The U.S. Department of Transportation requires that street infrastructure be accessible for people with disabilities, for example, signals that allow adequate time for pedestrians to cross streets at signalized crosswalks, well-designed curb ramps, and sidewalks that are wide and clear of obstructions. While these design features accommodate pedestrians with disabilities, they also assist people pushing strollers, cyclists, older adults, children, and indeed, all pedestrians.

It is important for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians to act responsibly and ensure safety when different transportation modes intersect. This guide provides tips for sharing the road safely and ensuring access for all users.



## Driving Safely

We all want to arrive at our destinations without incident. Responsible drivers help assure that happens. Allowing extra time to reach your destination and following these tips will help everyone reach their destinations safely.

- **Slow down** around pedestrians, cyclists, intersections, and crosswalks.
- **Allow at least three feet** between your car and cyclists or pedestrians when passing.
- **Be aware** that some people might not be able to see your car or move quickly.
- **Never pass a car** stopped at a crosswalk.
- **Stop one or two car lengths** from a pedestrian crossing a street where there is no signal, so drivers behind you can see him.
- **Yield to oncoming cyclists** when turning left at an intersection, just as you would for motorists.
- **Be aware of people** with service animals and white canes.

- **Don't pull into a crosswalk** when waiting to make a turn.
- **Yield to pedestrians** when turning right.
- **Be aware that pedestrians** and cyclists can't hear your electric or hybrid car and be especially careful in parking lots and when backing up.
- **Be aware that loud noises**, like car radios, can impair the navigation of people using auditory cues for street crossings.
- **Clean your windows** and turn on your headlights for better visibility during rain, snow or fog conditions. In snow, brush off your headlights and taillights.
- **Be aware of the limited view** provided by back-up cameras.
- **Watch out for "hidden pedestrians"** behind snow banks and other visual obstacles—especially children, people using wheelchairs and scooters.
- **Be aware of factors** that might impact your driving ability, for example, medications, alcohol, fatigue, weather conditions, and poor lighting and visibility.



## Resources



**Accessible Pathways & Livable Communities Pocket Guide**  
[www.projectaction.org](http://www.projectaction.org) | (800) 659-6428

**Neighborhood Wayfinding Assessment Pocket Guide**  
[www.projectaction.org](http://www.projectaction.org) | (800) 659-6428

**Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center**  
[www.pedbikeinfo.org](http://www.pedbikeinfo.org) | 888-823-3977

**U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**  
[www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov) | 888-327-4236

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
[www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety](http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety) | 800-CDC-INFO

**National Complete Streets Coalition**  
[www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets) | 202-207-3355



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# Driver & Pedestrian Guide to Sharing the Road Safely



## Walking and Cycling Safely

Pedestrians, people using wheelchairs or scooters, and bicyclists are also responsible for following traffic safety guidelines. Here are some steps that people walking or cycling on and near roads can use to arrive at their destinations safely.

- **Wear reflectors** and light-colored clothing; small lights and reflective straps are inexpensive and can be found at local bike stores.
- **Dress appropriately** for the weather; comfortable and stable footwear is especially helpful.
- **Warn others** when approaching and allow plenty of space when passing slower pedestrians, especially when using a bicycle, wheelchair or scooter.



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- **Use hand-signals** when turning or changing lanes while bicycling.
- **Establish eye contact** with drivers before crossing in front of them. Don't assume that all drivers will yield.
- **Cross the street in crosswalks** or at corners if crosswalks are not available. Jaywalking or crossing mid-street where no crosswalk is present is dangerous for everyone involved.
- **Follow pedestrian traffic signals.** Never cross against the light, even when there is no traffic.
- **Plan your route** and consider all options to travel safely. Traffic and lighting may vary by time of day. The shortest route may not be the safest.



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## Distractions Can be Deadly

Distractions can be equally dangerous for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and people using wheelchairs.

The U.S. Dept. of Transportation reports that there are three types of distractions: visual, manual and cognitive. Texting requires visual, manual and cognitive attention, making it one of the most dangerous distractions.

- **Don't text, talk on the phone** or use other portable electronic devices while walking, cycling or driving.
- **Navigate intersections** as efficiently as possible. Pay attention to your surroundings—not your phone—when crossing streets.



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Distractions can be equally dangerous for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and people using wheelchairs.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2012 over 1,150 people were treated in emergency rooms in the United States after accidents while using handheld devices.



Streets are the arteries of our neighborhoods. They connect us to places and activities, provide structure for transportation, offer public spaces for utilities, and define a sense of place in the community.

Everyone should be able to travel public streets and pathways safely, regardless of their abilities and transportation choice. **You can help make travel safe for all by practicing safe driving and pedestrian skills.**