



# 4 Steps to Improve Pedestrian Crossings

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At some point in their trip, everyone becomes a pedestrian. Walking to your car, to the bus stop, or to the grocery store often involves crossing one or more lanes of traffic. During those times, a pedestrian is at the greatest risk. What can be done to improve pedestrian crossings? Here are our four steps in evaluating and improving crossing safety.

## 1. Eliminate or Reduce the Conflict.

The first consideration when dealing with improving pedestrian crossings is simply: How can we eliminate or reduce the potential conflict? Some possible options to eliminate or reduce conflicts at the crossing include:

- Relocate the through road away from the pedestrian crossing
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- Direct traffic to other accesses/routes to reduce the number of vehicles
- Change to one-way traffic

## 2. Reduce the Exposure Distance.

The risk for a pedestrian increases the longer they are in a crossing and vulnerable to traffic. Look for ways to reduce the exposure distance and the chances pedestrians and vehicles would be in conflict.

- Narrowing the driving lanes on the entire corridor
- Use of bump-outs or other landscaping devices to reduce the driving widths
- Eliminate driving shoulders or parking lanes at the crossing

### 3. Increase Pedestrian Awareness / Slow Driving Speeds.

Sometimes the best solutions are to increase awareness and force slower driving speeds.

Consider the following:

- New or updated pavement markings and/or traffic control signs
- Speed tables or speed humps
- Mid-lane pedestrian warning signs
- Safety campaigns directed at the pedestrians

### 4. Active Control.

The use of active control devices (flashing beacons, HAWK signals, full traffic signals) can be a good choice for some locations. Consider the size of your location, the amount of traffic, and the number and type (seniors, kids, etc.) of pedestrians to determine whether active control could be a good fit.