

MARKED CROSSWALKS



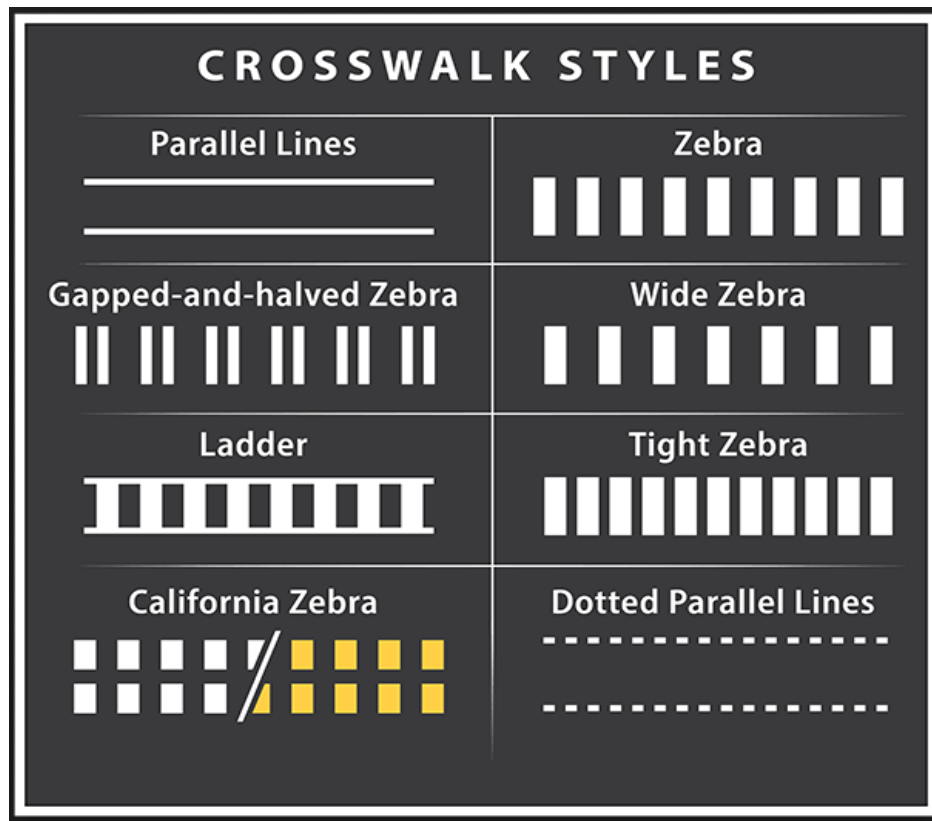
ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

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Crosswalks are 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 be 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 as follows:

- 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?

The majority of county roadways do not have sidewalks. By state law, pedestrians are 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 make it easier for pedestrians to cross the street. Where it exists, pedestrians should always cross at a 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 pedestrians 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 locations that meet the state guidelines but are 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 MY 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, or 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 wheelchair accessibility in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act.

Requesting a marked crosswalk is difficult to justify if there is not a sufficient number of pedestrians crossing the street to meet state guidelines. In cases where pedestrian crossing demand is below the threshold, the County may consider installing “pedestrian crossing” warning signs to alert motorists of random pedestrians crossing in the area.

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

As a public Agency, the County is required by law to follow state law with regard 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 which indicate that arbitrary installation of crosswalks may create an environment where pedestrians 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 keenly aware of your surroundings when crossing a street, especially when your visibility is limited by vehicles already stopped at the crosswalk.



REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

If you have questions, requests, or suggestions concerning traffic, please contact the Ventura County Public Works Agency – Roads & Transportation department at: **(805) 654-2049** or via email through the “Report a Concern” link at:

[VCPWA Connect \(https://publicworks.venturacounty.gov/report-a-concern/\)](https://publicworks.venturacounty.gov/report-a-concern/)