

CROSSWALKS

CAN MORE CROSSWALKS BE INSTALLED SO THAT I CAN CROSS THE STREET?

Crosswalks can be either “marked” or “unmarked”. A “marked crosswalk” is any crosswalk, which is delineated by white or yellow painted markings place on the pavement. All other crosswalk locations are therefore “unmarked.” Further, the California Vehicle Code defines a “crosswalk” as the portion of a roadway at an intersection, which is an extension of the curb and property lines of the intersecting street, or is any other portion of a roadway, which is marked as a pedestrian crossing location by painted lines.

The Town of Apple Valley receives many requests to install marked crosswalks. Although such requests reflect a concern for pedestrians’ welfare, we have found that marked crosswalks do not necessarily result in increased pedestrian safety.

Studies indicate that pedestrians are twice as likely to be struck in marked crosswalks as opposed to unmarked crosswalks. Unfortunately, some pedestrians assume that the motorist will always stop when they are crossing the street, but even under the best of conditions, motorists do not always see a crosswalk until it is too late to stop. Pedestrians often enter the crosswalk, with the false sense of security that they are safe, and unfortunately the result of this illusion is often tragic.

The City of San Diego's performed a study of both marked and unmarked crosswalks that produced surprising results. Although 2.5 times as many people used the marked crosswalks as opposed to unmarked crosswalks, 6 times as many accidents occurred in the marked crosswalks. A pedestrian safety study in Long Beach reported 8 times as many accidents in marked crosswalks and similar studies in other cities around the U.S. have produced similar results.

Suggested Safety Tips:

1. Hold small children by the hand when crossing.
2. Look both ways before crossing any street.
3. Make sure all traffic stops before entering the roadway
4. Establish eye contact with drivers when possible
5. Do not step out in front of approaching cars until you see them come to a stop.
6. Stay on the curb while waiting for a gap in traffic.
7. Always cross at intersections.

