

Chapter 6—Enforcement

6.1: Related to Pedestrians



Introduction

Enforcement is one of the 5 E's of Complete Streets. (Education, Encouragement, Engineering, Enforcement and Evaluation are the 5 E's.) This section is a compilation of Ohio laws and common sense rules for pedestrians. Other sections will cover similar information for other users (bicyclists, transit users, and motorists.)

Pedestrians in Crosswalks and Sidewalks

- Motorists are required to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk per Ohio Revised Code §4511.46.
- Intersections may have unmarked crosswalks but motorists are still required to yield.
- Marked mid-block crosswalks also give pedestrians the legal right-of-way.
- Drivers turning right across a crosswalk must yield, even if they have a green light per Ohio Revised Code §4511.13.
- Drivers must yield at WALK signals per Ohio Revised Code §4511.14.
- If the “Don’t Walk” signal is flashing, pedestrians should not start crossing, but finish if you are partway across.
- Pedestrians should not walk in prohibited areas, such as limited-access highways and railroad tracks.
- If there is no sidewalk, pedestrians are allowed to walk on the side of the road, facing traffic.
- If a sidewalk is available, pedestrians must use the sidewalk and not the roadway.
- Pedestrians are allowed to travel in both directions on sidewalks.



◀ Mid-block crosswalk near OSU.
(Source: MORPC, Columbus, OH)

Multi-Use Paths (MUPs)

Multi-Use Paths (MUPs) are also known as trails or “bike trails.” However, they are open to both bicyclists and pedestrians. Many MUPs in central Ohio are next to rivers and therefore are typically considered recreational in nature. However, people use them for commuting or other trip purposes.



◀ Sullivant Trace Trail/MUP in Columbus, OH.
(Source: Columbus Recreation and Parks)

Multi-Use Paths (MUPs), cont'd

The following are rules for MUP users from the [Columbus Recreation and Parks webpage](#).

- Motorized vehicles, including motorcycles and scooters, are not permitted. Pets are not permitted on Greenway Trails.
- Bicyclists and skaters must yield to pedestrians.
- All users should keep to the right side of the trail. Listen for audible signals and allow faster trail users (runners and bicyclists) to pass safely.
- Always pass on the left, and give an audible warning when passing others.
- Maintain single file when others are within 100 feet. Slow down and form a single file in congested conditions, reduced visibility, and other hazardous conditions.



◀ Multi-Use Path (MUP) sign reminds users to keep right in Monterey County, California.

(Source: [Mari Lynch blog](#))

Bike and Equestrian Paths

The majority of paths in central Ohio are multi-use paths. However, pedestrians may encounter a bike or equestrian (horse) path.

- Generally, paths that are not multi-use paths are not paved. Wheelchair users may find it difficult or impossible to travel on unpaved paths.
- Bike paths that are “off-road” are recreational in nature. They are not intended for use by non-bicyclists.
- Equestrian paths or trails are also recreational in nature. Pedestrians should use caution if attempting to use such a path. Pedestrians are generally required to yield to horses.



◀ Bikes stop for a horse and rider. Location Unknown.

(Source: [Horse and Man website](#))

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Railroad Crossings

- Pedestrians should exercise extra caution at railroad crossings. Stay alert and avoid distractions such as texting and using headphones (Operation Lifesaver Inc., [Safety Tips](#)). Look both ways before crossing railroad tracks.
- Trains have the right-of-way all of the time over emergency vehicles, cars, law enforcement, bicyclists, and pedestrians (Operation Lifesaver Inc., [Safety Tips](#)).
- Always yield to flashing lights, whistles, closing gates, crossbucks, or stop signs at railroad crossing (Texas Department of Insurance, [Railroad Crossing Safety Fact Sheet](#)).



◀ Gates are closing at a railroad crossing. Location Unknown.
(Source: Korve, et al.)

- Pedestrians are forbidden from walking on railroad tracks, except when crossing them at designated locations. Never try to outrun a train.
- Crossing is forbidden after the lights begin to flash and the gates begin to drop.

Sources

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- Korve, Hans W., Jose I. Farran, Douglas M. Mansel, et al. Integration of Light Rail Transit into City Streets. Washington, DC: Transit Cooperative Research Report 17, Transportation Research Board, 1996. As cited in Federal Highway Administration. Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing Handbook - Revised Second Edition August 2007. Section 9: Special Issues. <http://www.ite.org/bookstore/gradecrossing/sec09.htm> (retrieved May 12, 2011)
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