
CONTACT INFO

If you see a traffic signal not operating properly, please contact Salt Lake City's Traffic Control Center at 535-6530.

- Never assume drivers see you – make eye contact with drivers before walking in front of their vehicles.
- Always watch for turning vehicles and do not step in front of vehicles that are too close to stop safely. You may have the legal right to be in the crosswalk, but that does not protect you from the damage inflicted by collision with a 2,000 lb automobile. In an accident, the pedestrian always loses!
- Do not run or ride bicycles or skateboards in crosswalks. However, whenever crossing, minimize the time you spend in the roadway.
- Wear reflective clothing when walking at night.
- When provided, always use the pedestrian push button.
- While crossing at a location without a COUNTDOWN TIMER, don't panic when the WALK symbol changes to the flashing DON'T WALK symbol; there is still time remaining to continue crossing the street.



Salt Lake City Transportation Division

349 South 200 East, Suite 450
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
Phone (801) 535-6630
www.slctrans.com

SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

HOW PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS WORK



HOW PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS WORK

The purpose of traffic signals is to assign right-of-way at intersections. Pedestrian signals compliment automobile traffic signals by providing additional information that may be needed to help insure a safe crossing on foot.

This brochure addresses the following frequently asked questions:

1. What do the symbols on pedestrian signals mean?
2. Why do some intersections have pedestrian signals while others do not?
3. Why do some locations with pedestrian signals have push buttons while others do not?
4. What can I do to improve my own safety while crossing a street?

PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

Traffic engineers are moving toward the use of symbols in place of word signs because they are easier for people to comprehend in a shorter amount of time. Easily recognized symbols also accommodate people of all languages.



The walking person symbolizes WALK and means you may, exercising due caution, begin crossing.



The lone solid or flashing upraised hand (without an active countdown timer) symbolizes DON'T WALK or more appropriately: Do Not Begin Crossing. If during your crossing the symbol changes from WALK to DON'T WALK, continue and complete your crossing while exercising due caution.



A COUNTDOWN TIMER together with the flashing upraised hand symbol means you may, exercising due caution, begin crossing* but only if you are able to safely walk completely across the street or to a safety island before the timer shows no remaining time.

*Salt Lake City is unique in allowing pedestrians to begin crossing while the countdown timer is counting down. Typically, pedestrians must only begin crossing while the WALK symbol is displayed.

AVAILABILITY OF PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS

Salt Lake City's policy is to install pedestrian signals at all signalized intersections, as funding permits.

PUSH BUTTONS

Pedestrian push buttons are installed at locations where additional time is needed for pedestrians to safely cross and at locations where, in the absence of automobile traffic, the traffic signal controller must be notified that a pedestrian is present before it will provide the WALK symbol. When provided, a push button must always be used. If not, the WALK symbol will not be displayed, making it unlawful for pedestrians to begin crossing.



CROSSING SAFETY

Pedestrian signals improve safety by assigning right-of-way to pedestrians in much the same way as vehicular signals do for automobiles. They do not, however, eliminate the need for sound judgment. The following tips will help improve your safety while crossing a street: