



Top Safety Tips

Using the crossing when walking or biking:

- Don't assume motorists see you and will stop—even if you see the "WALK" light or a green bike signal, ALWAYS make sure every lane is stopped or clear before crossing.
- Watch for turning vehicles—motorists on side streets may turn into the crossing area without looking.

Encountering the crossing when driving:

- A red light indication at a bike and pedestrian crossing has the same meaning as everywhere else: red means STOP.
- Drivers must stop and wait at a solid red light. A flashing red light means that drivers must stop, but after stopping they may proceed if it is safe to do so.
- When a bicycle/pedestrian signal light is "dark" (all lights off), you may proceed with caution without stopping.

Developed in Tucson

While on vacation in England, City of Tucson Traffic Engineer Richard Nassi observed a unique pedestrian crossing and realized it could be a cost-effective way to help people walk and ride across major roadways. After modifying the design to meet U.S. engineering standards, the innovative signal known as a HAWK (High-intensity Activated crossWALK) was born!

There are now more than 130 HAWK signals around Tucson, with more in the works. The design has been approved by the Federal Highway Administration and HAWKS are being constructed all over the country. Research shows that these signals improve safety:

- Motorists yield to pedestrians at HAWKS 97% of the time
- Pedestrians use the signal 91% of the time
- Installation of HAWK signals leads to a 69% decrease, on average, in pedestrian crashes

The City of Tucson has continued to innovate, with the development of the BikeHAWK and TOUCAN crossings that provide two sets of push-buttons and crossing areas—one for pedestrians and one for bicyclists.



For more information about Tucson's efforts to make its streets safer for everyone, go to: tucsonaz.gov/bicycle



Bicycle and Pedestrian Push-Button Crossings

Are you unsure how to use these crossings? Here are helpful tips regarding these crossings whether you're biking, walking, or driving a car.



On foot:



1. These crossings only work when activated, so to begin, press the push button.



2. Wait until all cross traffic has stopped and you see a "WALK" light, then proceed with caution.



3. When you see a flashing orange hand, do not enter the crossing. Many crossings have a numerical countdown will identify how many seconds you have left to cross the roadway.



On a bike:



1. These crossings only work when activated, so to begin, press the push-button.



2. Wait until all cross traffic has stopped and you have an indication to cross. Either dismount and walk your bike or ride through the intersection, always watching for traffic.



3. Some crossings have a red-yellow-green bicycle signal to indicate when to cross the roadway and when to wait. At other crossings, when you see a flashing orange hand, do not enter the crossing.



In a car:

Some crossings have the normal red-yellow-green traffic signal. Obey these signals as you would any traffic signal. At HAWKS, the indications are shown in the following order:

1. When a person activates the signal, it changes from "dark" to a flashing yellow light, then a solid yellow light. This alerts you to slow down and prepare to stop.



2. The light will then turn red. Come to a complete stop behind the painted stop line or crosswalk.



3. The light will then flash red. A flashing red light means that drivers must stop, but after stopping they may proceed if it is safe to do so.

