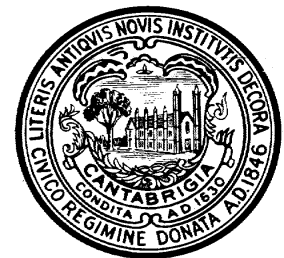


PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Traffic, Parking
&
Transportation
Department

www.cambridgema.gov/traffic
617-349-4700



What's that noise?

Some of our intersections have audible pedestrian signals which help visually impaired people know when to cross. In Cambridge, they make three sounds depending on the location – chirp, cuckoo, or tap.

What if I have questions?

Please contact the Traffic Engineering office at **(617) 349 - 4715**. You can also reach us by e-mail through our web site:

www.cambridgema.gov/traffic



What does the button do?

The button simply tells the traffic signal that you would like to cross. If the button is not pushed, the traffic signal assumes no pedestrians wish to cross and it will skip the **WALK** phase.

The pedestrian signal is dark. What should I do?

If the rest of the traffic signal is operating normally, the pedestrian signal may have a bulb burned out. Cross carefully, and contact the Traffic Engineer to report the problem.

Why should I wait for a WALK signal?

It is not safe to start crossing until the WALK signal is showing. Even if there is a break in traffic, it is dangerous to try to cross against the signal. A driver might not be able to stop in time, especially in bad conditions. Please wait a few extra seconds for the **WALK** signal. It could save your life!

PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS

Cambridge is a busy city and our streets must be shared by all modes of transportation: cars, trucks, buses, cyclists, and pedestrians. Safety is of particular concern at intersections where these modes are crossing paths. We have installed pedestrian signals at intersections with traffic signals to help pedestrians cross safely.

What do the symbols mean?

Pedestrian signals have 3 modes: **WALK**, flashing **DON'T WALK**, and steady **DON'T WALK**.



Under **WALK**, you will see a walking person or the word 'WALK' in white. Step off the curb, stay in the crosswalk, and head directly across. Make sure to **watch for vehicles that**

may be turning into the crosswalk. Although you have the right of way, an inattentive motorist may fail to yield as the law requires.



While you are in the crosswalk, the pedestrian signal may change to flashing **DON'T WALK** (or a flashing orange hand). **You will always have enough time to finish**

crossing. If you have not started crossing, wait until the next **WALK** signal because you may not have enough time to cross.



If the signal shows steady **DON'T WALK**, it is **not safe to be in the crosswalk.**

What do those numbers mean?



At many Cambridge intersections we have installed 'countdown' pedestrian signals. The numbers show how many seconds remain to safely be in the crosswalk. The countdown starts with the **WALK** signal and continues counting down through the flashing **DON'T WALK** signal.

It says WALK, so why are there still cars turning into the crosswalk?

Our goal is not only to provide you with a safe crossing, but also to minimize the time you have to wait to cross. To do this, we often give vehicles on the parallel street a green light when the **WALK** signal is on. Some of these vehicles may turn left or right into the crosswalk.

Do pedestrians ever get a head start?

Yes. At most intersections where vehicles and pedestrians move at the same time, we provide the pedestrian with a head start. Watch for the **WALK** signal to come on a few seconds in advance of the green light.

Why is the flashing DON'T WALK longer than the WALK?

The flashing **DON'T WALK** must last long enough for everyone who has started crossing to finish. The flashing **DON'T WALK** signal does allow more time for longer crosswalks. When crosswalks are very long, the flashing **DON'T WALK** is sometimes longer than the **WALK**.

Do I have to push the button?

Yes, you must push the button for the **WALK** signal to come on. Always push the button, even if there are other people waiting – don't assume someone has already pushed it! At intersections with no buttons, the **WALK** signal will come on every cycle.

I pushed the button, but nothing happened. Is it broken?

At many intersections, you will have to wait for the **WALK** signal after pushing the button. The amount of time may vary depending on the signal's cycle. However, if you wait longer than 60 seconds, the button may be broken. Please contact the Traffic Department and report the problem.