

Pedestrian safety tips

- ⇒ Always look both ways before crossing, even if the signal indicates that it's OK to cross.
- ⇒ Check for turning vehicles; a motorist may not see you stepping off the curb and may be behind you.
- ⇒ Cross the street as quickly and as safely as possible.
- ⇒ **Be alert.** Avoid using mobile devices during crossing.
- ⇒ Avoid crossing where signs tell you it is restricted or prohibited.



Placer Hills Rd

Please Drive Carefully!

Public safety is our highest priority, but we all need to cooperate in keeping our streets safe for everyone. Annually, the Transportation Division investigates hundreds of requests, suggestions and complaints as quickly as possible. We value your input and appreciate your patience and understanding while addressing your concerns and answering your questions. We are proud to serve the citizens of Placer County and help make our County a safer place to live and work.



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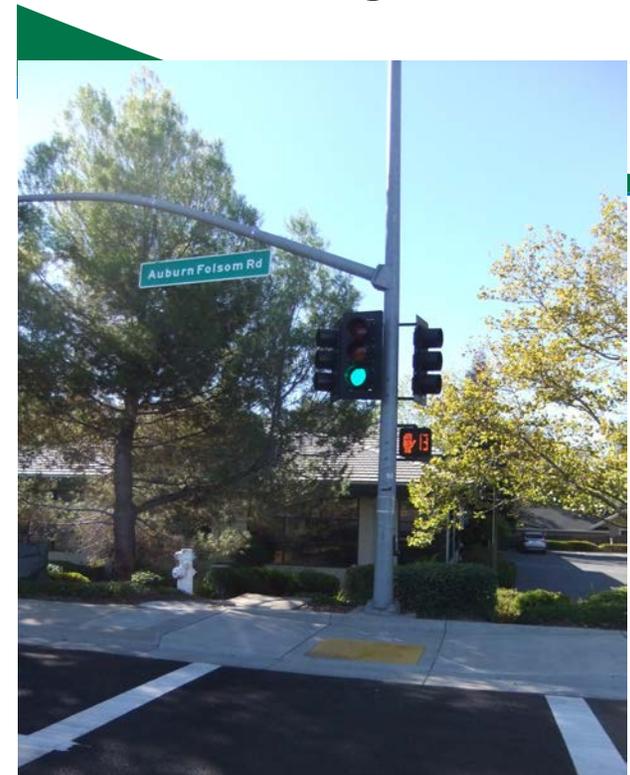
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The Department of Public Works and
Facilities—Transportation Division:

Traffic Signals



Traffic Signals

What is the purpose of a traffic signal?

Traffic signals are a traffic control device and are designed to indicate to pedestrians and drivers when it is appropriate to enter the intersection. The signal designates who has the right of way at an intersection or crossing by allowing or prohibiting certain movements. Traffic signals help manage traffic flow, allow pedestrians to cross and give cross street traffic a chance to enter the intersection.



Douglas Blvd

Who decides which intersections need signals?

Following state and federal guidelines, County traffic engineers review and evaluate intersections where signals may be needed to facilitate the flow of traffic. Because traffic and pedestrian signals are costly, installation is prioritized in locations where they will clearly improve safety and enhance efficiency when funds are available. Future intersection controls are also planned for through community planning and growth forecasts. These locations have been included in the County's Capital Improvement Programs.

Commonly asked questions about pedestrian crossing at signals

Do I have to use the button to make the signal work?

Yes, use the button for the pedestrian signal if one is available. If you don't push the button, the signal will not detect a pedestrian and walking person symbol will not light up. Additionally, the button allows for adequate time to cross, which is calculated based on the length of that specific crosswalk. It is not necessary to push the button more than once; pushing it again will not speed it up. If a button is not available, it's possible that the traffic signal has the capability to detect pedestrians on its own.

What if the upraised hand signal starts flashing before I'm through crossing?

It's okay to finish crossing the street when the upraised hand signal is flashing. The flashing upraised hand signal serves as a warning that it is too late to begin crossing. The signals are designed to allow plenty of time to cross safely as long as the walking person symbol is still on. Some pedestrian signals have a visible count down which will indicate how many seconds you have left to finish crossing.



How do intersections get considered for installation of a traffic signal?

Traffic engineers recommend traffic signal installation based on the following factors:

- Intersection collision history
- Number of vehicles using the intersection
- Vehicle delay
- Amount of pedestrians and bicycle activity
- Other signals in the immediate area
- Intersection characteristics (width, number of lanes, controls, etc.)
- Visibility
- Adjacent land uses
- Local traffic effects

Are there alternatives to a traffic signal?

Roundabouts coordinate the flow of traffic through an intersection, much like a traffic signal. However, traffic engineers determine which application is more appropriate depending on the amount of right-of-way available, traffic volumes, speeds and other intersection characteristics.



Kings Beach