

For your own protection **be attentive** and watch for turning vehicles across your path. Make eye contact with the turning driver and be certain that it is safe to cross before continuing.

**I am a slow walker and do not have enough time to get across. What should I do?**

Always push the PEDESTRIAN BUTTON and wait for a fresh WALKING PERSON indication. Begin your crossing immediately after the WALKING PERSON light comes on. Pedestrian crossing times are calculated using guidelines set out by the Ministry of Transportation which specify a walking speed of 0.8 to 1.25 meters per second. This is a very comfortable walking speed for the average person including children and seniors. The length of the WALKING PERSON indication is calculated to be the length of time needed to cross **½ the distance** across the road. The duration of the FLASHING HAND indication is the time needed to cross the **entire distance** from one side to the other. Past practice in the Region has been to also add on additional time at locations close to school areas and high number of senior pedestrians.

**Why doesn't the light change as soon as I push the button?**

Depending on the number of different sequences (i.e. Advance green vehicle phases) at the intersection and at what point in the cycle the signal is in, the time for the WALKING PERSON light to appear will vary by location and traffic conditions. During busy periods this time may be longer than in off-peak times. Please be patient and wait for the WALKING PERSON light.

## QUESTIONS or COMMENTS?

Any questions or comments regarding this or any other traffic matter may be directed to:

### Transportation Services Division Public Works Department Niagara Region

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## PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
Transportation Services

## Pedestrian Signals

At the Region of Niagara we care about the safety and convenience of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Traffic safety is our main concern at each one of the 460 traffic signals which we maintain. We attempt to fairly balance the needs of all road users and make adjustments to meet this goal.

Years ago, when traffic volumes were much lower than today, pedestrians could follow directions from the same traffic signals as motorists. Traffic signal operations have become more complicated today, so it is not surprising that questions are frequently asked about **pedestrian signals** which were introduced to improve **safety** and **convenience**.

## Operation



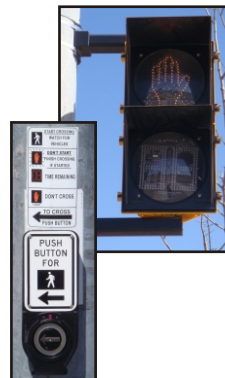
At intersections where pushbuttons are provided, pedestrians must push the button and wait for the **WALKING PERSON** light to appear. The traffic signal is programmed to respond to pedestrian demand and allow for a **safe** crossing of the intersection. **Do not begin to cross** if the **FLASHING HAND** signal is on.



When no pedestrian pushbuttons are available, the pedestrian sequence is pre-programmed and will appear at the beginning of green for each direction. Wait for the **WALKING PERSON** light to appear and begin your crossing.



At some older traffic signals in the Region or locations in outlying areas where there are no pedestrian signals installed, pedestrians must follow the **green, yellow** and **red** vehicle signals to complete their crossings. You are still **required** to push the pedestrian button and wait for a fresh green light to cross. This will hold the green light for an extended period of time to allow for a pedestrian to clear the intersection rather than a vehicle.



Some intersections in the Region require **specialized** equipment to assist specific users of the pedestrian signals. For instance **audible signals** are installed along pre-determined routes for the blind. Other intersections where certain conditions are met, **countdown displays** are installed showing the amount of time remaining to complete your crossing.

## FAQs

Each year the Region receives many inquiries regarding the operation of pedestrian signals across Niagara. Some of the most frequently asked questions are:

**Why does the white WALKING PERSON indication turn off before I finish crossing the street?**

There is a common misunderstanding that the WALKING PERSON indication should be displayed for the entire time required to cross the street. The WALKING PERSON light tells pedestrians that they may **begin** to cross. The pedestrian protection does not end when the WALKING PERSON light ends and the FLASHING HAND indication begins. The FLASHING HAND indication means to **continue crossing** if you have entered the cross-walk, and **do not begin** to cross if you have not entered the cross walk. This will continue to provide the right of way to pedestrians who began their crossing during the WALKING PERSON indication and tells the late arrivals not to begin to cross.

**Turning vehicles cut in front and behind me when I cross, even when the WALKING PERSON light is displayed. What should I do?**

By law, all vehicles are to yield to pedestrians lawfully in the cross-walk. Some drivers may not show enough courtesy and will attempt to run in front of and behind pedestrians.