



Official Guidelines

The City of Murrieta follows both the national and state guidelines as outlined in the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (*MUTCD*). The California MUTCD covers all aspects of the placement, construction, and maintenance of every form of approved traffic control.

The California MUTCD also emphasizes the uniformity of traffic control devices that conform to the regulations for dimensions, color, wording, and graphics. The standards are established to convey the same meaning or message at all times.

Consistent use of traffic control devices protects the clarity of their messages. As stated in the California MUTCD, uniformity must also mean treating similar situations in the same way. This approach is very important when deciding where to place marked crosswalks in the higher speed sections of the City's roadway system.



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If you have any questions, requests or suggestions concerning traffic, please contact the Public Works and Engineering Department at: (951) 304-CITY (2489) or through the "At Your Service" link at: www.murrieta.org

NTMP
Neighborhood Traffic Management Program



Marked Crosswalks



What is a Crosswalk?

Crosswalks can be either marked or unmarked. The California Vehicle Code defines a "crosswalk" as the portion of a roadway at an intersection that is an extension of the curb and property lines of the intersecting street or is any other portion of a roadway that is marked as a pedestrian crossing location by painted lines.

Marked crosswalks are delineated by white or yellow painted markings placed on the pavement.

All other crosswalks that do not have these markings are considered unmarked.

How are They Used?

At marked or unmarked crosswalks drivers must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians. Crosswalks are marked mainly to encourage pedestrians to use a particular crossing. Studies conducted on crosswalks support minimal installation of marked crosswalks at locations where there are no stop signs or traffic signals.

Pedestrian Collisions

Recent research has indicated that on multi-lane streets carrying volumes higher than 12,000 vehicles per day, pedestrian collisions are higher at marked

crosswalks without stop signs or traffic signals. This increase is caused by the fact that pedestrians often believe that they can step off the curb into the crosswalk and that approaching drivers will stop, when in fact many frequently fail to do so.

At all crosswalks, either marked or unmarked, it is the pedestrian's responsibility to be cautious and alert before they cross the street.

Another frequent factor that causes accidents involves the driver in the lane nearest to the curb stopping for a pedestrian that is either waiting to cross or who is already in the crosswalk. The driver of a second vehicle traveling in the lane left of the stopped vehicle tries to then pass the stopped vehicle and ends up hitting the pedestrian crossing the street.

Pedestrians should be very cautious when walking in a crosswalk, especially when their visibility is limited by vehicles already stopped at the crosswalk.

Where are They Marked?

Crosswalks are marked at intersections where there is confusion between vehicle and pedestrian movement, a large number of pedestrians crossing the street, areas where pedestrians cannot otherwise recognize the proper place to cross, and where traffic movements are controlled.

Examples of such locations include:

- Approved school crossings
- Signalized and four way stop intersections

Painted crosswalks are only used where it is necessary to direct pedestrians along the safest route.

Special School Crosswalks

Marked crosswalks established adjacent to a school building or school grounds must be painted yellow. Other established marked crosswalks may be painted yellow if the nearest point of the crosswalk is not more than 600 feet from a school building or grounds.

Crosswalks are marked at all intersections on the suggested routes to school. These maps are available from your local school.

The best safety measure is to educate children on how and where to safely cross the street.

