



## Cost-effective countermeasures with known safety benefits can help reduce pedestrian fatalities at uncontrolled crossing locations and un-signalized intersections.

Pedestrians account for over 17.5 percent of all fatalities in motor vehicle traffic crashes, and the majority of these deaths occur at uncontrolled crossing locations such as mid-block or un-signalized intersections. These are among the most common locations for pedestrian fatalities generally because of inadequate pedestrian crossing facilities and insufficient or inconvenient crossing opportunities, all of which create barriers to safe, convenient, and complete pedestrian networks.

Expecting pedestrians to travel significantly out of their way to cross a roadway to reach their destination is unrealistic and counterproductive to encouraging healthier transportation options. By focusing on uncontrolled locations, agencies can address a significant national safety problem and improve quality of life for pedestrians of all ages and abilities.



*Knowing how to determine good crossing locations and which countermeasures to use enables highway agencies and other organizations to increase pedestrian safety.*

### PEDESTRIAN SAFETY COUNTERMEASURES

FHWA is promoting the following pedestrian safety countermeasures through the fourth round of Every Day Counts (EDC-4):

- ▶ **Road Diets** can reduce vehicle speeds and the number of lanes pedestrians cross, and they can create space to add new pedestrian facilities.
- ▶ **Pedestrian hybrid beacons (PHBs)** are a beneficial intermediate option between enhanced pedestrian signage and a full pedestrian signal. They provide positive stop control at locations with the high pedestrian traffic volumes.
- ▶ **Pedestrian refuge islands** allow pedestrians a safe place to stop at the midpoint of the roadway before crossing the remaining distance. This is particularly helpful for older pedestrians or others with limited mobility.
- ▶ **Raised crosswalks** can reduce vehicle speeds.
- ▶ **Crosswalk visibility enhancements**, such as crosswalk lighting and enhanced signing and marking, help drivers detect pedestrians—particularly at night.

### STATE OF THE PRACTICE

Road Diets, pedestrian refuge islands, and PHBs are all considered Proven Safety Countermeasures by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The FHWA is also promoting Road Diets through EDC-3.

Communities benefitting from their use include Austin, Texas, where at least 39 PHBs are already installed and residents can request additional sites for them. In Michigan, the Department of Transportation (DOT) developed a Road Diets checklist to ensure smooth administrative procedures.

Countermeasures such as crosswalk lighting and raised crosswalks are being promoted through FHWA's PEDSAFE, a tool that helps transportation agencies diagnose and treat pedestrian safety issues. PEDSAFE includes numerous case studies that describe how communities across the country have implemented these safety improvements.

This EDC-4 effort will help more communities deploy these pedestrian safety improvements based on their specific roadway contexts and needs. It also aligns with U.S. DOT's Safer People, Safer Streets initiative and with other U.S. DOT efforts such as Ladders of Opportunity, which aims to provide people with safe, reliable and affordable connections to employment, education, healthcare and other essential services. STEP is also an important action in FHWA's *Strategic Agenda for Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation*, which is a collaborative framework for pedestrian and bicycle planning, design, and research efforts being developed over the next five years.

## BENEFITS

- ▶ **Improved Safety.** Countermeasures are available that offer proven solutions for reducing pedestrian fatalities at uncontrolled crossing locations.
- ▶ **Targeted Investment.** By focusing on uncontrolled locations, agencies can address a significant national pedestrian safety problem.
- ▶ **Enhanced Quality of Life.** Improving crossing opportunities boosts quality of life for pedestrians of all ages and abilities.



## RESOURCES

EDC-4 STEP: [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/edc\\_4/step.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/edc_4/step.cfm)

FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures: <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures/>

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center: <http://www.pedbikeinfo.org>

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U.S. Department of Transportation  
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**Every Day Counts (EDC)**, a State-based initiative of FHWA's Center for Accelerating Innovation, works with State, local and private sector partners to encourage the adoption of proven technologies and innovations aimed at shortening and enhancing project delivery.

