PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Important information to help you stay safe on NYC streets

Courtesy of Assemblyman
Luis R. Sepúlveda

Did you know?

- About 4,000 New Yorkers are injured and 250 are killed each year in traffic crashes.[1]
- A traffic-related accident results in serious physical injury every two hours.[2]
- Being hit by a vehicle is the most common cause of injury-related fatalities among children under 14 years old and the second most common cause for seniors.[3]
- Older pedestrians account for only 13% of the city's population but suffer 35% of pedestrian fatalities.[4]

Pedestrian safety is a serious issue with serious consequences – but there are plenty of steps you can take to ensure you remain safe from traffic-related dangers.

[1, 2, 3] nyc.gov/VisionZero
[4] nyc.gov/html/dfta/html/senior/pedestrian.shtml

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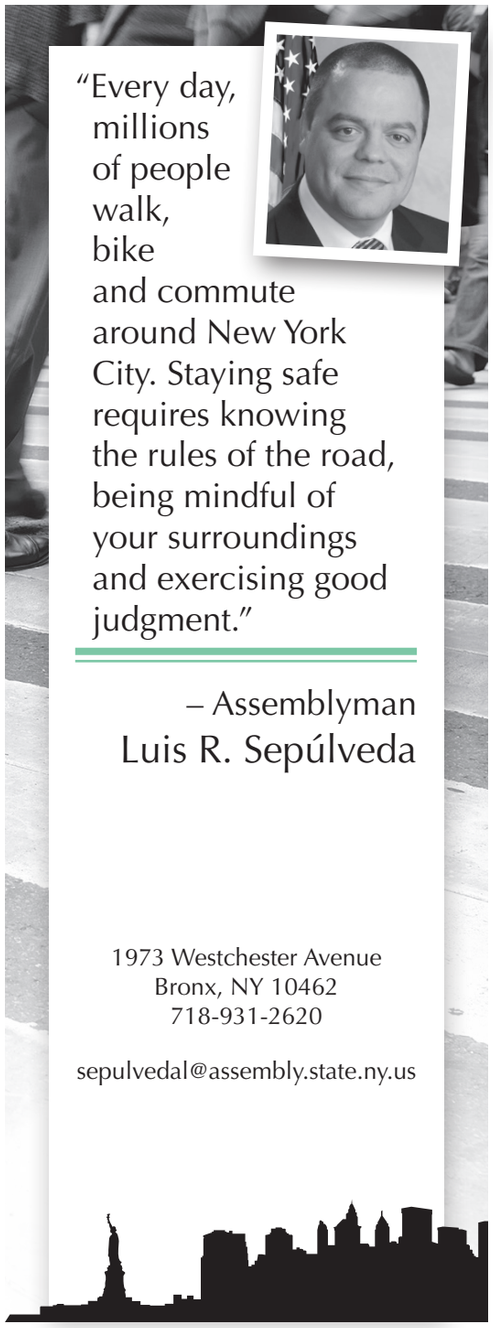

"Every day, millions of people walk, bike and commute around New York City. Staying safe requires knowing the rules of the road, being mindful of your surroundings and exercising good judgment."

– Assemblyman
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8 Tips for staying safe:

1. **Walk on sidewalks.** If you must walk in the street, walk facing the traffic. Always stop at the curb before entering the street.
2. **Cross only at street corners.** Preferably, cross at corners with a traffic light and within designated crosswalks.
3. **Look left, right and left again.** As you cross the street, keep scanning for oncoming traffic.
4. **Pay attention to "Walk/Don't Walk" signals.** Give yourself the most time to cross by waiting for a newly turned green light or "Walk" signal.
5. **Be cautious.** Watch for vehicles that may be turning or backing up, especially trucks. And be sure to stay out of the driver's blind spot.
6. **Be visible at night.** Wear reflective or light-colored clothing when it's dark and carry a flashlight.
7. **Be vigilant, even when you have the right of way.** Make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of a vehicle, even in crosswalks.
8. **Don't get distracted by your cellphone.** Walking while texting or talking can be dangerous, so remember to be aware of traffic and your surroundings.

How pedestrian-friendly is your neighborhood?

The New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) wants to know if traffic signals are not working, street signs are missing or damaged, street lamps are out, or about any other traffic-related problems in your neighborhood. To help identify areas in need of attention, the DOT has prepared a checklist that you can fill out. Be part of the solution for your community! Call 311 if you have something to report.

The DOT checklist can be accessed at:
nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/walkable.pdf.

Sources: nyc.gov/dot and nyc.gov/aging

Important information for cyclists

NYC biking laws

- You must yield to pedestrians on foot and stop at all red lights and stop signs.
- Always ride in the direction of traffic (Remember: Walk against the traffic, ride with the traffic).
- Children under 14 years old must wear a helmet.
- Make sure your bike is equipped with a white headlight and red taillight when riding at night.

Biking safety tips

- Always walk your bike across intersections and busy streets.
- Watch out for opening car doors and cars pulling into traffic.
- Wear reflective or light-colored clothing at night.
- Avoid objects on the pavement that may cause you to lose control of your bike.

Pedestrian safety quiz

How much do you know about crossing the street safely? Take the following short quiz to help identify how savvy a pedestrian you really are!

☐ True *or* ☐ False? It's safe to begin crossing the street while the "Red Hand Signal" is flashing.

☐ True *or* ☐ False? Left-turning vehicles pose the greatest risk of intersection accidents.

☐ True *or* ☐ False? A vehicle traveling at just 30 mph may need up to 125 feet to make a full stop, even under ideal driving conditions.

☐ True *or* ☐ False? It's important to make sure that cars come to a complete stop before you begin to cross the street, even if the pedestrian signal is in your favor.

☐ True *or* ☐ False? Increasing vehicle speed from 30 to 40 mph nearly doubles the likelihood that a pedestrian accident will result in a fatality.

A: The first question is false; the rest are true.