

## About Crosswalks

### What are the types of crosswalks?

1. Controlled marked crosswalk. These are marked crosswalks where vehicle traffic is controlled by a stop sign or traffic light. An example is Mass. Ave at Route 60.
2. Uncontrolled marked crosswalk. These are marked crosswalks without stop signs or signals. An example is the crossing of Mass. Ave at Water Street / Library Way
3. Controlled unmarked crosswalk. Vehicle traffic is controlled by a stop sign or traffic light, but the crosswalk is not marked.
4. Uncontrolled unmarked crosswalk. Even though no crosswalk is marked, this is the continuation of a sidewalk across a street, where vehicle traffic is not controlled by a stop sign or traffic light.

### When should crosswalk stripes be painted?

In uncontrolled locations, marked crosswalks are not necessarily safer than unmarked crossings. In fact, some studies have shown a higher pedestrian crash rates at marked crosswalks, especially on busy multi-lane streets (1). However, the marking of crosswalks may improve pedestrian mobility, because drivers are legally required to yield to pedestrians in marked crosswalks. Marked crosswalks are appropriate under the following conditions:

- At controlled locations (stop signs or traffic signals) where there is significant pedestrian traffic
- At school zone crossings (with a crossing guard)
- At non-signalized locations where pedestrian volumes are extremely high, such as the Minuteman Bikeway crossings
- At other non-signalized locations where the combination of high vehicle and pedestrian volumes indicate that the crosswalk is helpful for pedestrian mobility.

### When are crossing signs needed at a crosswalk?

On our busiest streets, simply marking a crosswalk is not sufficient to ensure reasonable pedestrian mobility or safety. This is especially true on multi-lane streets such as Mass Ave. Other measures may include:

Thermoplastic markings	More expensive than paint, but lasts longer. Seven examples on Mass Ave.
Roadside signs at the crosswalk	Bright yellow-green signs used on streets such as Pleasant and Summer Streets
In-street warning signs	Primarily on wide streets such as Mass Ave. Their use is limited because they are a high maintenance item (they are often run over).
Curb extensions	Examples appear on Mass Ave. in Arlington Heights. They shorten crossing distances and improve pedestrian-motorist visibility.
Pedestrian traffic signals	Examples appear on Mystic Street and Broadway.
Refuge islands	Pedestrians only have to deal with one direction of traffic at a time. They also shorten crossing distances. Under consideration for parts of Mass Ave.

### For more information

1. Zegeer, Charles, J. Richard Stewart, Herman Huang. Safety Effects of Marked vs Unmarked Crosswalks at Uncontrolled Locations: Executive Summary and Recommended Guidelines (2000)

<http://www.walkinginfo.org/rd/devices.htm#cros1>

2. Zegeer, Charles et al, Pedestrian Facilities Users Guide: Providing Safety and Mobility. Publication FHWA-RD-01-102 (2002) Download from [http://www.walkinginfo.org/insight/features\\_articles/userguide.htm](http://www.walkinginfo.org/insight/features_articles/userguide.htm)

For more information specific to Arlington, <http://www.tac.arlington.ma.us/documents.htm>