

Advance Stop Lines

Description

An advance stop line consists of a line typically placed about 6 metres before a mid-block crosswalk on a school route. This encourages drivers to yield to pedestrians (i.e. especially younger students) well in advance of the crosswalk.

How it Works

By positioning drivers further back from the crosswalk, advance stop lines increase drivers' fields of vision and therefore improve drivers' ability to see pedestrians. Advance stop lines can also prevent situations where a vehicle that is stopped in the lane nearest the curb obstructs a pedestrian's view of an oncoming vehicle in the left lane. In addition, this safety feature reduces the likelihood of a vehicle hitting a person in the crosswalk in the event of a rear-end crash.

Studies have shown that:

- Advance stop lines are effective in increasing drivers' ability to see people attempting to cross the road;
- The likelihood of drivers yielding to pedestrians crossing can increase by approximately 60%; and
- The combination of a "Stop Here for Pedestrians" sign and advance stop line can increase the number of drivers yielding to pedestrians even more.

Best results occur when:

- In locations with a bicycle lane, there is a separate stop line for cyclists, which is placed immediately before the crosswalk. This will improve drivers' ability to see the cyclists;
- Advance stop lines are used in conjunction with "stop/yield for pedestrian signs" or, better still, with rectangular rapid flashing beacons (page 25);
- Advance stop lines are placed 6 metres before the crosswalk; and
- Advance stop lines are used in conjunction with safe crosswalk signalization (page 23), bicycle boxes (page 19) at signalized intersections and raised crossings (page 26).

