



## **CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN**

301 E. Huron, P.O. Box 8647  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-8647  
[www.a2gov.org](http://www.a2gov.org)

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

## **ANN ARBOR REVISES PEDESTRIAN CROSS-WALK ORDINANCE AND AUTHORIZES FOUR NEW CROSSING BEACONS FOR PLYMOUTH ROAD**

ANN ARBOR, Mich., December 21, 2011 — Earlier this week Ann Arbor City Council approved revisions to the city's crosswalk ordinance, replacing the concept of requiring a vehicle to stop for a pedestrian "approaching or within" a marked crosswalk with requiring a vehicle to stop for a pedestrian standing "at the curb" as well as "within the crosswalk." The revised ordinance allows drivers to proceed after stopping once the pedestrian has safely cleared the roadway in the direction the vehicle is traveling, but an existing code remains in effect requiring that a vehicle is not permitted to pass another vehicle stopped at a crosswalk. These codes together maximize safety for pedestrians and providing clear sight-lines while reducing unnecessary delays for vehicles.

At the same City Council session, city staff were authorized to install four new rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB) along Plymouth Road at Georgetown Boulevard, Traver Village, Beal and Bishop streets and another RRFB at the intersection of South Seventh and Washington streets. These RRFBs are pedestrian-activated devices that initiate flashing yellow lights at overhead and curbside crosswalk signs, which alert drivers to be alert and stop for pedestrians when present at the curb or in the roadway crosswalk direction the vehicle is traveling. The RRFBs are anticipated to be installed over the winter and to become functional in spring 2012.

A community awareness program including outreach materials, posters and brochures will be available for interested residents and businesses along Plymouth Road and along Washington Street near South Seventh street to display and distribute. Additional information and video clips will be posted on the city's web site and via cable television and community media. Please check [www.a2gov.org/WalkBikeDrive](http://www.a2gov.org/WalkBikeDrive) for RRFB materials as they become available. Interested neighborhood, merchant and civic groups may request a presentation on pedestrian safety and the RRFB devices by contacting [ProjectManagement@a2gov.org](mailto:ProjectManagement@a2gov.org) or phoning 734.794.6410.



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Ensuring pedestrian safety is important in Ann Arbor because over 17% of the city's residents walk to work—nearly six times the national average. In recognition of the city's progress, Ann Arbor has been named a Gold-level walk friendly community by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center. The city was also recognized by *Prevention* magazine and the American Podiatric Medical Association as the third most walkable city in the country.

*Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and is frequently recognized as a foremost place to live, learn, work, thrive and visit ([www.a2gov.org/news](http://www.a2gov.org/news)). To keep up with City of Ann Arbor information, subscribe for e-mail updates ([www.a2gov.org/subscribe](http://www.a2gov.org/subscribe)), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/a2gov>) or become a city fan on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/thecityofannarbor](http://www.facebook.com/thecityofannarbor)). The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.*

### ATTACHMENT:

Section 10:148 of Chapter 126, Traffic, of Title X of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor

#### **10:148. - Pedestrians crossing streets.**

- (a) When traffic-control signals are not in place or are not in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall stop before entering a crosswalk and yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian stopped at the curb, curb line or ramp leading to a crosswalk and to every pedestrian within a crosswalk, when the pedestrian is on the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.
- (b) A pedestrian shall not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into a path of a vehicle that is so close that it is unsafe for the driver to yield.
- (c) Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

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