



"Founded in 1867"

The City of Fort Thomas is committed to providing our residents with safe travel throughout our community. As we enter our sesquicentennial year in 2017, the city is promoting a citywide "Pedestrian Safety Initiative".

In every city, streets and sidewalks interconnect and create conflicts between drivers and pedestrians. It is important that the community embrace the concept that where these conflicts occur, drivers should ALWAYS yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. We teach our children at the youngest ages possible that they should look both ways and use crosswalks before entering streets; yet as adult drivers, we often fail to honor those same crosswalks.

The city is working toward creating an environment that emphasizes the need to recognize crosswalks, be aware of all pedestrians (children, joggers, cyclist) and defer to them at intersections/crosswalks. This type of cooperation will provide a safer environment for travel of all types throughout the community.

A beginning point for this initiative is the locating of a manual activated crossing sign that alerts drivers with a flashing beacon when pedestrians intend to use the crosswalk in front of Ruth Moyer Elementary on Highland Ave. This device is simple in that if you push the activation button, it will trigger the flashing beacons located below the signs on both sides of the crosswalk.

Please take the opportunity to discuss this device with your children and emphasize that:

- a) Pedestrians are equally responsible for their own safety;
- b) Pushing the activation button does not mean they can immediately enter the crosswalk;
- c) The rule of "look both ways" still applies;
- d) Crossing guards (when present) are still in charge
- e) Only activate the device when you are intending to cross the street

City and school personnel will be working together through visits at each school as part of this initiative to share the principles of pedestrian safety with our students. Please support these concepts with your children at home and set examples for them as we travel through our city.

As we move forward, other locations will be considered for installation of similar devices. The city will continue working with other government agencies to explore the possibility of creating this and other safety devices near all the schools and business districts. It will require us all to make this "Pedestrian Safety Initiative" a success!