CITY OF WEST BEND
CROSSWALK PAINTING PHILOSOPHY

All Intersections Have Marked or Unmarked Crosswalks

Wisconsin state law says that crosswalks exist at all intersections except where prohibited by posted signs. At any crosswalk, marked or unmarked, drivers must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians within the crosswalk.

Crosswalks are marked to provide guidance for pedestrians who are crossing roadways by defining and delineating the path.

Why Not Paint Crosswalks at Every Intersection?

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) states in Section 3B.18 that "Crosswalk lines should not be used indiscriminately." That is because traffic control, if used to excess, tends to lose its effectiveness.

Marked Crosswalks Are Not Any Safer Than Unmarked Crosswalks

Studies of driver and pedestrian behavior at both marked and unmarked crosswalks find that simply marking a crosswalk across a road does not make it safer for the pedestrian.

Such research suggests that a marked crosswalk can give a false sense of increased safety.

It is the pedestrian's responsibility to be cautious and alert while crossing at all crosswalks, both marked and unmarked.

We Use Marked Crosswalks Only:

- At signalized intersections
- At designated school crossings
- At major park and playground crossings
- At mid-block crossings

This policy informs the pedestrian of where they should cross a roadway. By doing this, we are concentrating pedestrians to a common point where drivers will learn to expect crossings.

Our goal is to use marked crosswalks only where necessary to direct pedestrians to the safest route.

We Don't Use Marked Crosswalks:

- To slow or stop traffic