



Crosswalk Flags Pilot Project Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the purpose of the crosswalk flags?

A: The use of brightly colored flags by pedestrians is intended to raise driver awareness of pedestrians crossing the street, and to improve safety for all roadway users at marked crosswalks.

Q: Where are the flags located?

A: The City of Bellevue has introduced flags for the first time in the city at two locations in Old Bellevue: on Main Street near 101st Avenue and on Main Street near 103rd Avenue.

Q: How long will the pilot project last?

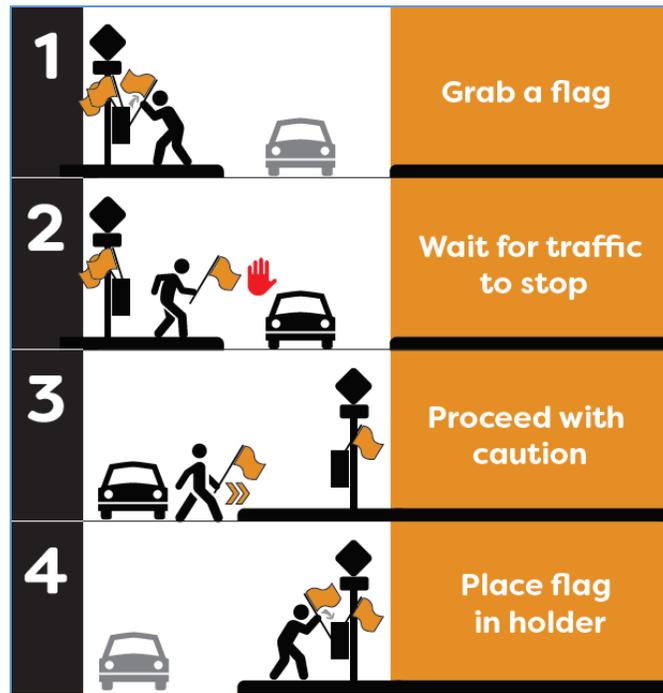
A: The pilot project is expected to last 12 months to adequately assess effectiveness of the flags.

Q: Can flags be added to crosswalks in other neighborhoods?

A: The City is limiting use of flags to the pilot locations on Main Street. During the pilot, Transportation Department staff will monitor the sites to determine if the flags are achieving the objectives for improved awareness of pedestrians in the crosswalks. If they are found to be effective, other locations in the city may be considered following this pilot project.

Q: How are the flags intended to be used?

A: The flags are intended to supplement safe behavior and traffic laws. [Washington State law](#) requires drivers to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk, and requires pedestrians to not suddenly step out into traffic where it is impossible for the driver to stop. It's strongly recommended that pedestrians make eye contact with drivers before crossing. Steps for using crosswalk flags are shown below and can also be found on the flag holders located at the crosswalk pilot sites.



Q: What will be studied during the pilot project?

A: With these first crosswalk flag projects, the Transportation Department will be able to more accurately assess effectiveness and determine whether to roll out the flags at other locations. A camera is available at a nearby signal to help with this assessment. Questions that traffic engineers hope to answer include: whether pedestrians use the flags or choose to cross without them; whether drivers respond differently to a pedestrian using a flag, at what frequency do flags go missing or other maintenance needs are required, and whether safety overall is improved.

Q: What have other cities found?

A: Feedback from other cities suggests the flags are a relatively inexpensive way to raise awareness about pedestrian crossings. However, there is little data available regarding their ability to reduce collisions. Bellevue’s pilot project will study pedestrian and driver behaviors with and without the flags and try to determine whether they increase overall safety for users.

Q: How can I support the program?

A: You can help by using the flags at the pilot locations and providing feedback about your experience by emailing klatt@bellevuewa.gov. Also, if you see that one side of the street has more flags than the other, feel free to redistribute them evenly. Encourage your friends and neighbors to use the flags, and to use caution when crossing the street.

Q: If flags are missing what should I do?

A: City crews will respond to reports of missing flags and replenish them as needed. Contact information is provided on signs posted at each site. For missing flags or questions on the pilot project, please call the Transportation Department at 425-452-6856 or email klatt@bellevuewa.gov.