

### Raised Crossings

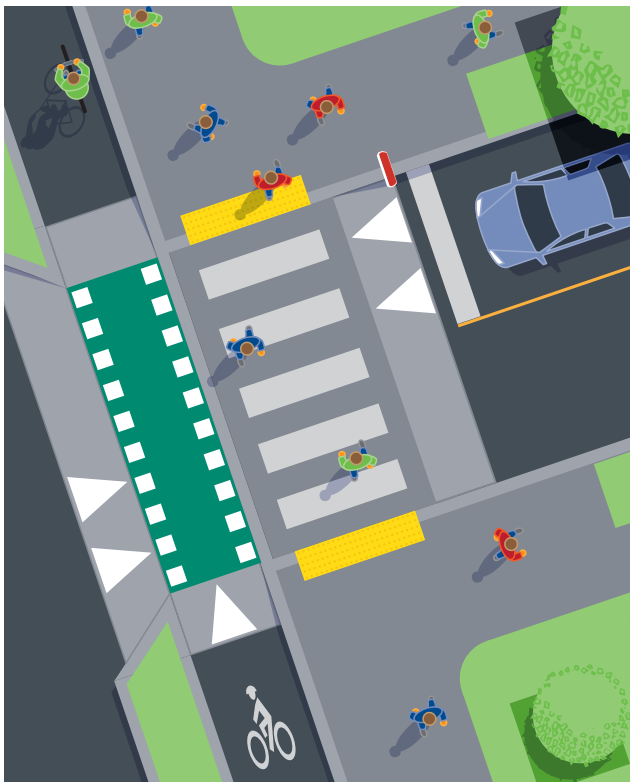
#### Description

People on foot or on bicycle crossing a road often have the right-of-way, but this is not intuitive in typical North American road design. Raised crossings are crosswalks that are flush with the sidewalk, rather than the road, and help to make people crossing more conspicuous to drivers.

#### How it Works

In order to help draw drivers' attention to pedestrian traffic and help make the right-of-way clear, raised crossings use the same materials as the sidewalk and bikeway, instead of those used for the road. Their purpose is to slow motor vehicles, improve the visibility of vulnerable road users, and encourage more drivers to yield to people crossing on foot or by bicycle.

An added benefit of this safety design is greater ease of crossing for people with mobility or balance challenges (including people using walkers, wheelchairs, mobility scooters, etc.), because they do not need to step down from the curb.



#### Studies have shown that:

- Raised crossings can reduce vehicle-pedestrian crashes resulting in injury by as much as 46% and reduce vehicle-bicycle crashes resulting in injury by as much as 51%; and
- Raised crossings are more protective than speed humps which have sometimes been shown to increase crashes for cyclists.

#### Best results occur when:

- This safety feature is installed at the intersections of local roads with major roads, and placed across the local road. It may also be used in parking lots and at the intersection of two local roads;
- Raised crossings are set back approximately 6 metres from the major road. This increases the space between drivers who are turning right onto the local road and people who are crossing the local road. As a result, drivers are better able to see pedestrians after turning, and all road users have more time and space to react safely when there is a conflict;
- Tactile warning strips and other highly vivid methods of demarcating the sidewalk and the roadway are used at raised crossings. This helps all people, and in particular those with visual limitations, to distinguish between the sidewalk and the roadway; and
- Raised crossings are used in conjunction with protected and connected bicycle lanes (page 12).