

# Astoria Police and Public Works Traffic Safety Information

The Astoria Police Department and Public Works Department are dedicated to providing a high level of service to our citizens in all aspects of our work. Of special interest to us is pedestrian and bicycle safety in areas where collisions between vehicles and pedestrians have a higher chance of leading to crashes and pedestrian injuries and fatalities. We continually search for opportunities to make our streets safer and we work hard with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to make improvements along the State Route through town where traffic is much more critical due to the presence of truck traffic and out of town visitors that may not be familiar with our streets.

## Message to Pedestrians and Bicyclists:

- ✓ Always attempt to make eye contact with approaching drivers.
- ✓ Do not assume that you are seen by drivers.
- ✓ Don't be distracted – turn off headphones, put away cell phones and pay attention when crossing the street.
- ✓ Wear bright clothing when walking at night and even during the day.
- ✓ Do not assume that the crosswalk law is going to stop a vehicle.
- ✓ Do not assume that a vehicle is going to stop at a stop sign or stop light.
- ✓ Obey all laws pertaining to pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. They are in place for your safety.



## Message to Drivers:

- ✓ Oregon law requires that drivers stop and remain stopped for pedestrians when pedestrians are:
  - Crossing in the lane in which the driver's vehicle is traveling;
  - Crossing in a lane adjacent to the lane in which the driver's vehicle is traveling;
  - Crossing in the lane into which the driver's vehicle is turning;
  - Crossing in a lane adjacent to the lane in which the driver's vehicle is turning;
  - Crossing less than six feet from the lane in which the driver's vehicle is turning.
- ✓ Drive the speed limit
- ✓ Look for pedestrians
- ✓ Acknowledge that you see the pedestrian
- ✓ Don't be distracted – put away cell phones

Following are some of the tasks that our Departments do or have done to improve pedestrian safety on our streets:

### **Public Education and Outreach**

- ✓ The City participates in the Safe Routes to Schools Program. Staff is always exploring opportunities to enhance this involvement to incorporate new pedestrian safety strategies.
- ✓ Safety City event held for students at Astor Elementary School
- ✓ Annual Halloween safety treats (such as glow sticks) and literature along with traditional candy

- ✓ At the start of the school year the City places ODOT safety posters in City locations and shares with other agencies where the posters will be seen. Special emphasis is placed on the shorter days and limited lighting that comes with winter.
- ✓ Share Impact Oregon Information with resource group. For direct information visit <http://oregonimpact.org/>
- ✓ Share Grant Opportunities with other agencies (such as bike safety training with Sunset Empire Transportation District)
- ✓ Police Department Facebook page is used to share safety information and encourage use of new strategies
- ✓ Distribute ODOT pedestrian and other traffic safety flyers (currently at front counter of City Hall)
- ✓ Staff supports outside efforts to develop art, banners, slogans, stenciling at corners, etc. that are thought to add value to the cause. Schools will be encouraged to participate such as senior projects, campaigns or enhancement of existing school safety education programs.

### **Police Enforcement**

- ✓ Upon report of a consistent speeding issue in any part of town, Engineering staff place a speed reader radar board in at the location and provide information to the Astoria Police Department to assist with targeted speed enforcement. Our officers will then conduct targeted speed enforcement in an effort to reduce offenses.
- ✓ Each year, funding permitting, the Police Department conducts a crosswalk enforcement operation to help increase driver compliance with laws related to pedestrian safety. In these operations, a decoy police officer attempts to cross a street at an intersection or marked crosswalk. If passing motorists fail to stop and yield for the pedestrian, then they are issued either a warning or a citation. This program has received a positive response from our citizens.
- ✓ The Police Department has also partnered with ODOT to conduct additional grant-funded high-visibility traffic enforcement programs related to excessive speed, distracted drivers and seatbelt violations. All of these programs have a strong emphasis on education as well as enforcement to gain better compliance.

**Sign Clutter** – periodically (every 3-5 years) the City and ODOT get together to review signage along the State route through town. The goal is to reduce what is referred to as sign clutter. It is well known in the traffic profession that unnecessary signs take away from the important signs that we want drivers to focus on.

**Crosswalk Improvements** – City staff has requested and ODOT has funded the upgrade of many crosswalks through the City along the State Route. Improvements include a series of crosswalks that were not being maintained by ODOT because they did not have the approval of the State Traffic Engineer. Working closely with ODOT staff, the City made a formal request for approval and ODOT not only approved the request but provided a \$40,000 grant to install the crosswalks. A continental style crosswalk marking made with thermoplastic was used to improve longevity of the markings.

**ODOT Coordination** – City staff works closely with ODOT to constantly improve the highway corridor through town. We are always looking for grant funding to make safety improvements. Following are some recent examples:

- ✓ Upgrade to Bay St. and West Marine Dr. with installation of rapid flashing beacon system.
- ✓ Transportation System Plan (TSP) Update – the City completed an update to our TSP that is available on the City Website. The TSP includes many projects with descriptions and cost estimates that can be eligible for State Transportation Funding as it becomes available.
- ✓ Sidewalk improvements connecting Astoria High School to neighborhoods (currently funded in the State Transportation Improvement Plan). Construction is anticipated to begin in the Summer of 2022.
- ✓ Downtown signal upgraded for pedestrian countdown signals

- ✓ ODOT coordinates enforcement efforts with the Oregon State Police (OSP) by providing OSP with additional funding to specifically patrol construction zones (Astoria Megler Bridge for example) which provides extra traffic enforcement within the City of Astoria

**Street Lighting** – our Public Works Department has examined the entire street lighting system within the City limits for optimization. Unnecessary lights that waste energy and are not needed were removed and lights were added in areas that lacked proper lighting. In some cases, the City requests grant funds to add street lights on the State Highway such as a grant that the City received from ODOT to add street lights at Marine Dr. and 23<sup>rd</sup> St., and at the Safeway intersection (Marine Drive and 33<sup>rd</sup> Street).

**Links**

[Transportation System Plan, Volume 1](#)

[Transportation System Plan, Volume 2](#)

[Making an Impact.](#) Oregon Impact Safety Organization

Driver’s Guide to Sharing Oregon’s Roads

[https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Safety/Documents/Share\\_The\\_Road\\_330005.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Safety/Documents/Share_The_Road_330005.pdf)

Field Guide to Bicycling in Oregon

<https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Safety/Documents/FieldGuidetoBicyclinginOregon.pdf>

Oregon Pedestrian, Bicycle and Driver Rules

<https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Safety/Documents/OregonBikePedDriverRules.pdf>

**Brochures**

[Intersection Safety Facts \(pdf\)](#)

[Pedestrian Crosswalk Safety Flyers \(pdf\)](#)

[Two Things at One Time Attention Test \(pdf\)](#)



**Please note that some activities have been temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**