

ADULT CROSSING GUARDS

Public Works Agency
Transportation Department
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1620



WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR REQUESTING ADULT CROSSING GUARDS?

Requests for new adult crossing guards should be directed to the appropriate school district. If the school district feels that the location being requested might be appropriate for a crossing guard, the district will request that the Public Works Agency Transportation Department (PWATD) collect the necessary traffic data such as pedestrian and conflicting vehicular volumes and evaluate the location using state guidelines. The results of this analysis will be provided to the appropriate school district.

WHO PAYS FOR ADULT CROSSING GUARD?

The district will budget for and hire a new crossing guard if the state guidelines for deployment of school crossing guards are met.

Each adult crossing guard would cost the school district approximately \$12,000 per year. Since funding is limited for providing crossing guards, school districts are selective in deciding where and for which hours school crossing guards can be provided.

WHAT CRITERIA ARE USED TO DECIDE IF ADULT CROSSING GUARDS ARE PROVIDED?

Adult crossing guards are normally assigned where official supervision of school pedestrian is desirable while they cross a public highway, and at least 40 school pedestrians for each of any two hours (not necessarily consecutive) use the crossing daily while going to or from school.

Alternatively, adult crossing guard may also be justified under the following conditions:

- 1. At an uncontrolled crossings where there is no traffic signal or stop sign or an adult crossing guard within 600 feet;**
 - a. In urban areas where the vehicular traffic volume exceeds 350 during any two hours (not necessarily consecutive), and in which 40 or more school pedestrians cross daily while going to or from school; or
 - b. In rural areas where the vehicular traffic volume exceeds 300 during any two hours (not necessarily consecutive) in which 30 or more school pedestrians cross daily while going to or from school.

The critical speed is defined as the speed by which 85th percent of vehicles drive at or slower. When the critical speed exceeds 40 mph, the guidelines for rural areas should be applied.

- 2. At stop controlled crossings:**

Where the vehicular traffic volume on undivided highways of four or more lanes exceeds 500 per hour during any period when school pedestrians are going to or from school.

3. At traffic signal controlled crossings:

- a. Where the number of turning vehicles throughout the school crosswalk exceeds 300 per hour while school pedestrians are going to or from school.
- b. When justified by analysis of the operations of an intersection that there is an inadequate gaps in traffic for school pedestrians.

ARE ADULT CROSSING GUARDS TRAINED?

Each school district in the County provides a training program for all new adult crossing guards and monitors the effectiveness of all existing guards on an ongoing basis.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PROMOTE SCHOOL SAFETY?

Studies have shown that school-age pedestrians are the group at greatest risk from traffic. Near most schools in the unincorporated area the County has prepared maps to help educate school children on the safest route to reach school as possible.

These maps, which have been posted by most schools on their website, show the suggested routes to school from the surrounding areas. The routes are designed to take advantage of adult crossing guards, stop signs, and traffic signals.

Parents and citizens have the greatest influence by ensuring that children are aware of and use the recommended routes. Also, make sure that they are taught to “Stop, Look, and Listen” prior to crossing a street, and to be alert yourself for the unexpected presence of school children when you are driving.

REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

If you have questions, requests or suggestions concerning traffic please call the Transportation Department at: **(805) 654-2049** or by an email through the “Contact Us” link at: <http://www.countyofventura.org>