

## **Intersection Pedestrian Signal (IPS)**

The Intersection Pedestrian Signal is a traffic signal designed to assist pedestrians in crossing a busy street. At an Intersection Pedestrian Signal, motorists and pedestrians both have responsibilities to ensure public safety.

The signal consists of:

- Red, yellow and green vehicle displays to control vehicles on the main street that pedestrians are crossing, and
- Pedestrian displays (WALKING PERSON and HAND symbols) for the pedestrians.

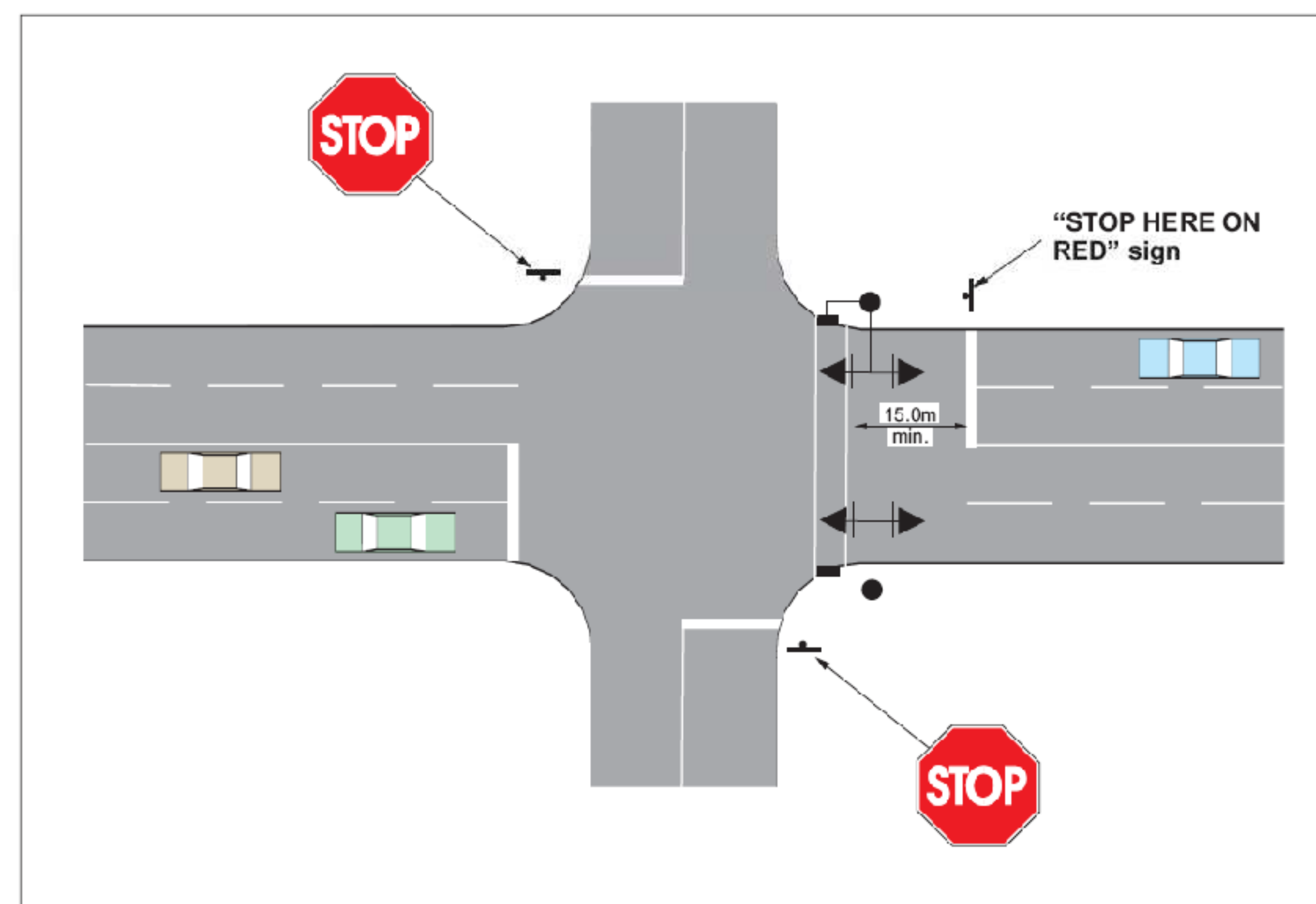


Figure 41 – Intersection Pedestrian Signals

There are no traffic signals facing vehicles on the side streets. Those vehicles are controlled by stop signs. A pedestrian indicates the desire to cross by pushing a push-button. The signal will stop the vehicles on the street and provide an interval for pedestrians to cross.



How to use the signal? It's easy! Just push the yellow button to indicate your desire to cross. In a few seconds, traffic on the street will stop and the WALKING PERSON display will be activated. Cross the street only when it is safe!

The Ontario Highway Traffic Act provides for the enforcement of the following Pedestrian and Motorist traffic controls.

### **Pedestrian Control Displays**



When you see the WALKING PERSON display it means that you may commence crossing the roadway in the cross-walk and in the direction of the signal. You should look in all traffic directions and check for turning cars, be sure to look LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT and when it is safe proceed across.



The FLASHING HAND display informs pedestrians that have already started to cross to continue crossing at a normal pace, there is sufficient time remaining to safely complete the crossing. Do not stop in the middle of the crosswalk or return to the curb, simply complete your crossing to the other side at a normal pace.

If you have not started crossing when the FLASHING HAND is displayed, do not begin to cross because there is insufficient time remaining to complete the crossing safely.



When you see the STEADY ORANGE "HAND" display, do not cross and stay out of the roadway.

### **Motorist Control Displays**

#### **Traffic Signal**



Obey the traffic signal display as at any traffic signal and STOP at the stop bar. Even if the signal turns green, let pedestrians finish crossing before proceeding. Also expect traffic to enter the intersection from the side street and cross your path. Before turning left, wait for a gap in on-coming traffic as at any traffic signal.

#### **Stop Sign**

Stop at the painted stop line for the stop sign as at any stop controlled intersection. Proceed into the intersection only when it is clear and safe to do so, yielding the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing the main street, pedestrians crossing the side street as well as vehicles travelling along the major street.



*If you have any questions on how to use an Intersection Pedestrian Signal or require additional information, please call Traffic Operations at (519) 631-0368.*

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

*Where does the design come from?*

The design of an Intersection Pedestrian Signal is based on guidelines from the Ontario Traffic Manual Book 12.

*Why is the WALKING PERSON display not long enough to cross the street before the FLASHING HAND is displayed?*

There is a common misunderstanding that the WALKING PERSON light should be displayed for the entire time required to cross the street. The WALKING PERSON light tells pedestrians that they may begin to cross. The pedestrian protection does not end when the WALKING PERSON light ends and the FLASHING HAND begins. The FLASHING HAND means do not start to cross. It continues to provide protection for pedestrians who started crossing during the WALKING PERSON interval and tells the late arrivals not to begin to cross.

*I walk slowly and do not have enough time to get across. What should I do?*

Always use the push button. Wait for a fresh WALKING PERSON light. This will give you extra time. Start as soon as the WALKING PERSON light is displayed and complete your crossing through the FLASHING HAND display.

*Why is the WALKING PERSON light not displayed immediately after I push the yellow pedestrian button?*

At quiet times, the light will change very quickly. At busy times of the day, it can take a little longer to handle heavy traffic on the street. If the Intersection Pedestrian Signal takes longer than 90 seconds to respond, please call Roads and Transportation Services at 519-631-0368.

*Turning vehicles do not give way to me when I cross even when the WALKING PERSON light is displayed. What should I do?*

By law, all vehicles have to yield to pedestrians lawfully within the cross-walk, but some drivers may not show enough courtesy. For your own protection, be attentive and watch for vehicles turning across your path. Make eye contact with the turning driver and be certain that it is safe before continuing to walk across.

*When I am driving toward the red-yellow-green lights, why do I have to stop so far from the crosswalk?*

The stop line is designed to be at a location which allows motorists facing the signal to easily see the traffic signals and the intersection when stopped. Motorists must stop at or behind the painted stop bar on the road for the red light.



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF  
**ST. THOMAS**

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## **Intersection Pedestrian Signals**

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