Pedestrian Competencies

- Look both ways when approaching an intersection.
- Be aware of your surroundings and ready for unexpected events. You may think a driver's slowing down or stopping...but be prepared in case he or she runs a stop sign or traffic light.
- Walk facing oncoming traffic .When there are no sidewalks, walk near the curb or, if necessary, off the road.
- Cross streets at intersections whenever possible. Walking a few feet farther to get to a crosswalk is much is a better option than crossing in the middle of the block.
- Use the push buttons at signalized intersections for crossing protection and wait for the light.
- Avoid dashing into traffic from between parked vehicles. Motorists aren't looking for pedestrians between cars.
- Watch out for cars backing up in parking lots. Drivers in parked cars may not be able to see pedestrians walking nearby. Look toward the driver's seat of a car you're walking behind to see if someone's ready to drive away. Notice brake lights and back-up lights. If they're lit, the vehicle's probably ready to move.
- Walk predictably to minimize surprises to motorists and bicyclists. You may have the right of way, but both bicycle and motor vehicle impacts generally cause pedestrians more damage.
- Wear light colored or white clothing at dusk and after dark so headlights and streetlights reflect better.
- Wear a red flasher and maybe even reflective tape or a vest at night.
- Be considerate of other pedestrians and those in other transportation modes.