

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND LAWS IN PENNSYLVANIA

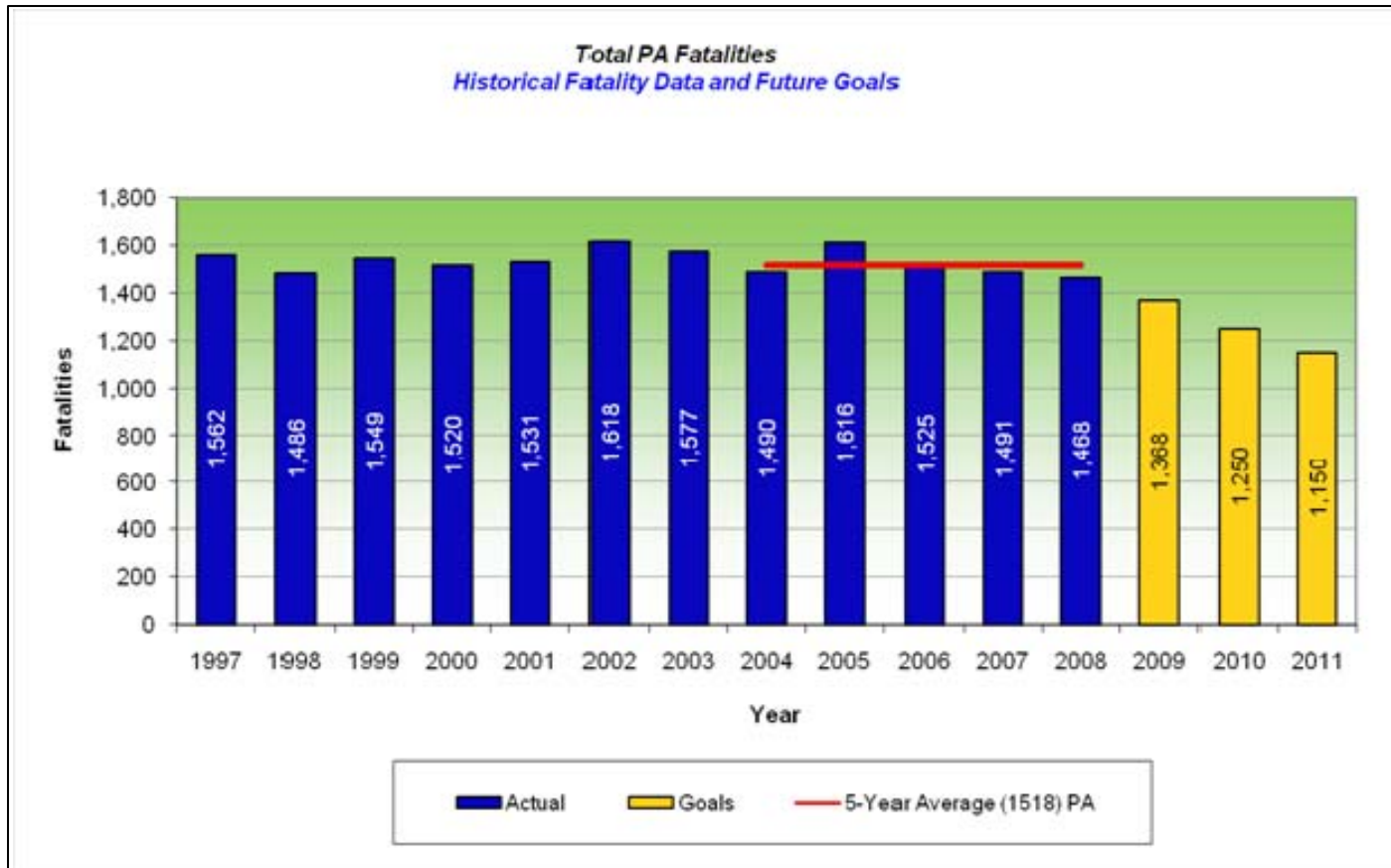
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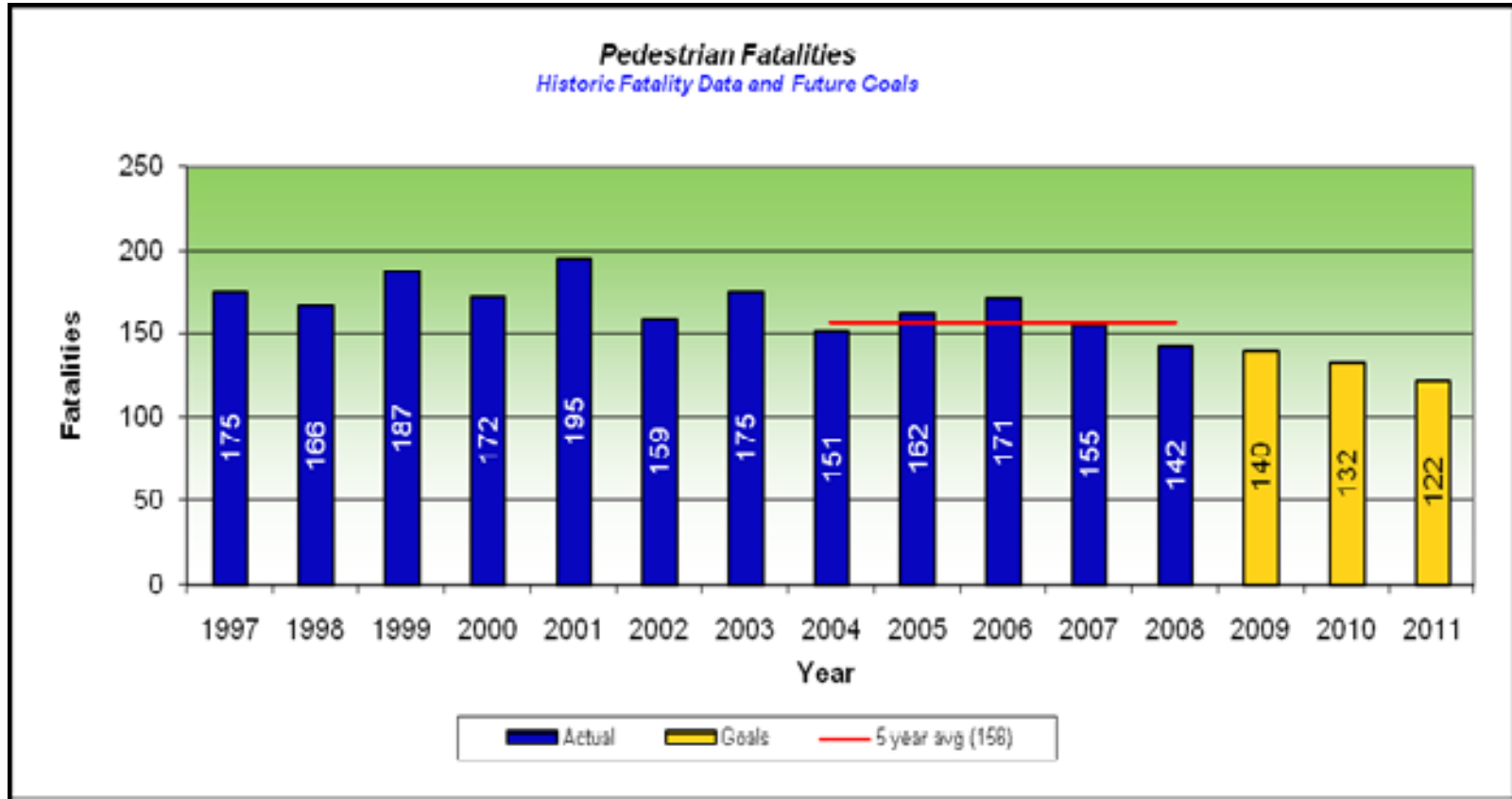
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Total PA Fatalities



Pedestrian Fatalities in PA



State Pedestrian Laws from Title 75

- Pedestrians shall obey traffic control signals *Sec 3541(b)*
- Penalty for violation of Sec 3541(b):
 - Fine of \$5.00 plus costs
- At non-controlled intersections, vehicles shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians in a marked or unmarked crosswalk *Sec 3542(a)*
- Penalty for violation of Sec 3542(a):
 - Fine of \$50.00 plus costs
 - 2 points on license

Definition of a Crosswalk

- Title 75, Section 102, defines “Crosswalk” as:
 - (1) That part of a roadway at an intersection included within the connections of the lateral lines of the sidewalks on opposite sides of the highway, measured from the curbs or, in the absence of curbs, from the edges of the traversable roadway; and in the absence of a sidewalk on one side of the roadway, that part of the roadway included within the extension of the lateral lines of the existing sidewalk.
 - (2) Any portion of a roadway at an intersection or elsewhere distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.

State Pedestrian Laws from Title 75 - Unmarked Crosswalk



Unmarked crosswalks - there are 6 such crosswalks in this photo



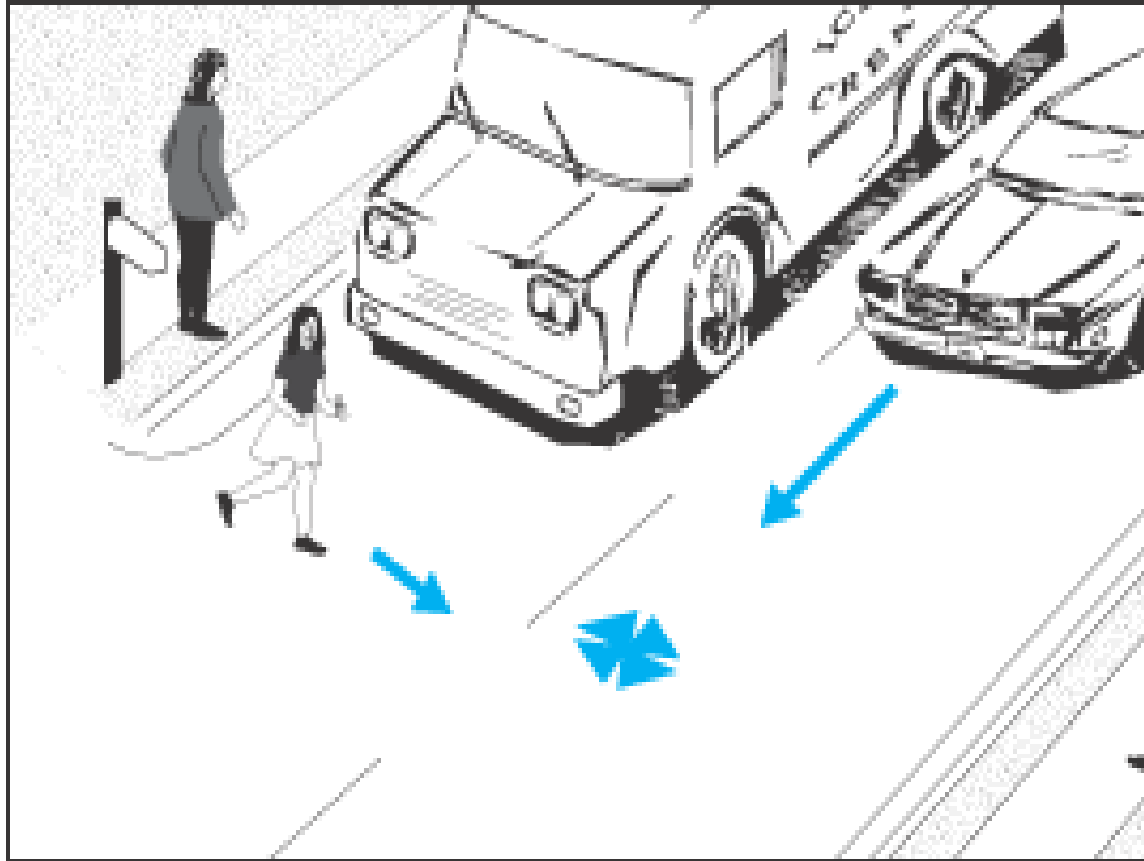
Motorists to Yield to Pedestrians on Sidewalk

- “The driver of a vehicle emerging from or entering an alley, building, private road or driveway shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian approaching on any sidewalk extending across the alley, building entrance, road or driveway.” *Sec 3547*
- Penalty for violation of Sec 3547:
 - 3 points on license

State Pedestrian Laws from Title 75

- “Multiple Threat Crash”
- Whenever any vehicle is stopped at any crosswalk at an intersection or at any marked crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle. *Sec 3542(c)*

Illegal Motorist Action Causing Multiple Threat Crash



Jaywalking

- Question: What is the definition of “jaywalking” in Title 75?
- Answer: None
- Must use the descriptions of pedestrian violations (walking against signals or outside crosswalks) to determine “jaywalking” in Pennsylvania.

Pedestrians Crossing Outside of Crosswalks Must Yield When...

- Generally, must yield ROW to vehicles. *Sec 3543(a)*
- If crossing a roadway where a pedestrian tunnel or an overhead pedestrian crossing is provided, must yield to vehicles. *Sec 3543(b)*
- Between **adjacent** controlled intersections in an urban district. *Sec 3543(c)*

Crossing Intersection Diagonally

- Generally prohibited unless permitted by traffic control devices or a uniformed police officer directing traffic.
Sec 3543(d)
- Penalty for violation of Sec 3543(d):
 - Fine of \$5.00 plus costs

Persons Walking Along a Roadway

- If sidewalk present, pedestrian must use it and may walk in either direction. *Sec 3544(a)*
- If no sidewalk, but shoulder is present, must walk on shoulder and may walk in either direction. *Sec 3544(b)*
- In the absence of sidewalk and shoulder, pedestrian may walk in road, as close to edge as practicable and must walk on left side of road facing traffic. *Sec 3544(c)*

Pedestrians with Visual Disabilities

- When any pedestrian is using a white cane or service animal, vehicles must yield and stop if necessary. [No reference to a Crosswalk or Intersection] *Sec 3549(a)*
- Penalty for violation of Sec 3549(a):
 - Fine of \$50.00 - \$150.00
 - 3 points on license
- The absence of a white cane or service animal by a person with a visual disability in no way deprives that person of the rights conferred by law. *Sec 3549(b)* [Reference to persons with “low” or “partial” vision, who can get about without a white cane or service animal]

Pedestrians Under the Influence

- A pedestrian who is under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance to a degree which renders the pedestrian a hazard shall not walk or be upon a highway except on a sidewalk. *Sec 3550*

PennDOT Pedestrian Safety Programs

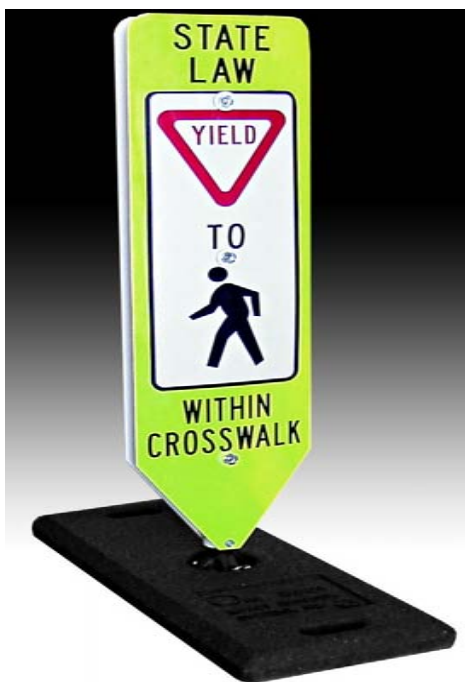
Yield to Pedestrian Channelizing Devices

5300 signs deployed in PA since 2001

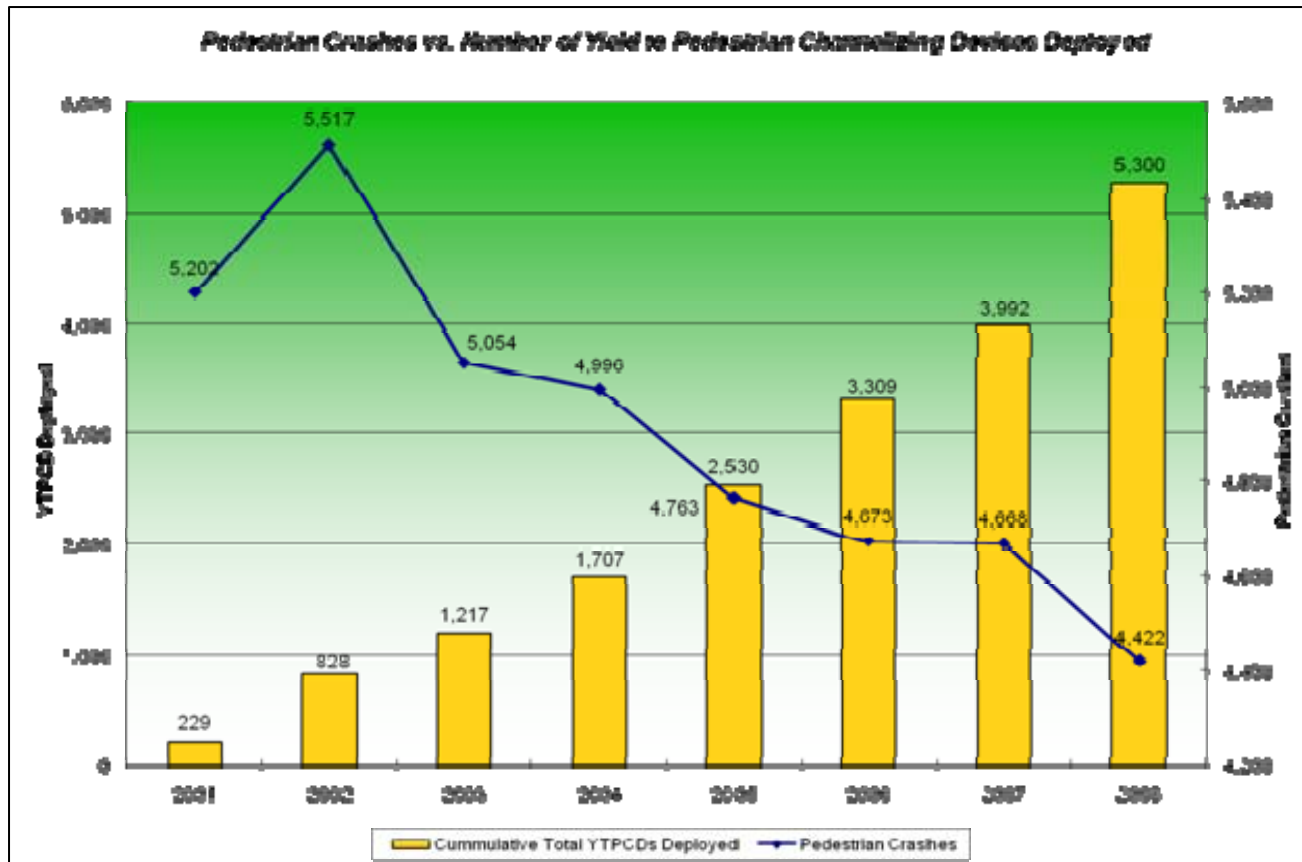
Approximately 1000 signs/yr distributed by PennDOT to municipalities across PA

Pedestrian Fatalities have decreased by approximately 10% when comparing 2008 Actual Fatalities vs. the 5 Year Baseline Average (2004-2008) fatalities.

Research results indicate that driver compliance increased 30-40% with the deployment of these devices.



PennDOT Pedestrian Safety Programs



PennDOT Pedestrian Safety Programs

- Community Traffic Safety Programs (CTSP) with community organizations, schools, local law enforcement
 - Grantees use Federal Section 402 safety funds
 - Work with local officials and schools to conduct safety programs for school children

PennDOT Pedestrian Safety Programs

- Safe Routes to School Program
 - Federally funded program
 - Sidewalks, curb cuts, other physical improvements to better enable walking to school
 - Improvements are in close proximity to school or provide critical connections to school
 - Between 10 and 30 percent of program must be non-infrastructure improvements (educational)

PennDOT Pedestrian Safety Programs

- Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) “Walkable Communities” Program
 - LTAP is a PennDOT contracted program that includes many forms of transportation and safety assistance to individual communities.
 - An example is the Walkable Communities program, which consists of a review of infrastructure and recommendations to make a community walkable.
 - Following project completion, LTAP staff conduct follow-up visits in the subsequent 12 months to gauge success.

PennDOT Pedestrian Safety Programs

- Recent PennDOT Changes
 - Altered Pedestrian Policies to include greater emphasis on Pedestrian Need
 - Made modifications to Design Manual 2, Roadway Standards on pedestrian design, and ADA accommodations
 - Issued Guidance Manual for Inspectors on curb ramps and other ADA facilities

Types of Disabilities

- Vision Impaired
- Hearing Impaired
- Physically Impaired
- Mental Impairment



ADA Background

- Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990
 - Requires state and local governments to address ADA
 - No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity.
- Between 1992 - 1995
 - \$90 Million spent on curb ramp construction

ADA Recent Events

- Many curb ramps do not meet current ADA requirements.
- Standards have changed
 - Detectable Warning Surface (DWS) is now required
 - Level Landing
- Voices for Independence (VFI) Lawsuits
 - June 2002, City of Erie
 - November 2004, City of Meadville
 - September 2006, PennDOT
 - Federal Judge Ruling
 - Curb ramps across state routes - PennDOT will fully fund
 - Curb ramps across local roads - municipality will fully fund
 - Diagonal curb ramps will be shared 50/50 cost

ADA Challenges

Challenges Nationwide

- Many state and local governments are faced with the challenge of bringing their facilities into compliance with ADA standards. Litigation by ADA advocacy groups has resulted in settlement agreements mandating government action.
- Since July of 2000, the Department of Justice reports **161 settlement agreements**, for a variety of ADA issues, with 148 localities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.
 - **The City of Sacramento must allocate 20% of roadway funds to ADA compliance every year.**
 - Nashville, TN conducted extensive reviews of their policies to ensure sidewalks are compliant.

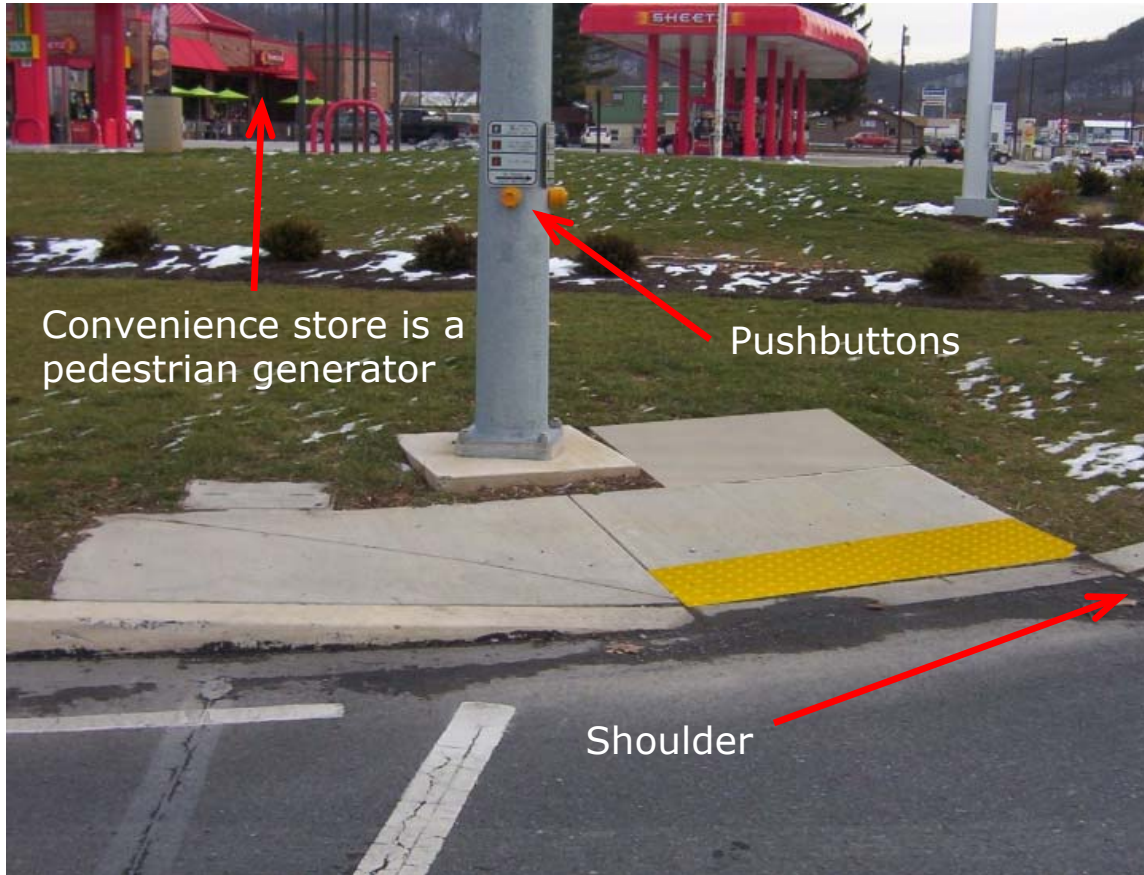
Examples



Examples



Examples



Questions?