




**PINELLAS COUNTY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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TO: Interested Agencies

FROM: Frank Hibbard, Chairman 
Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization

SUBJECT: Pedestrian Safety Law

DATE: June 9, 2008

We are pleased to inform you that the Governor has now signed a new law concerning pedestrian safety. Our Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was concerned there needs to be a greater assurance for pedestrians as to safety when they use crosswalks. We, therefore, proposed a procedure where the vehicle must stop (rather than yield) for a pedestrian when they are in a crosswalk at a signalized intersection or in a crosswalk that is specifically signed for the vehicle to stop. Representative Rick Kriseman and Senator Mike Fasano agreed to sponsor parallel bills in the House and Senate. They were very successful in their efforts.

It is now very important that the word gets out, and correctly, as to what this new procedure is. The specific wording on the procedure from the new law is indicated in the following four paragraphs that are excerpted from that law. It is the intent to provide for a safer environment for pedestrians because our State is Number two in the Nation with respect to pedestrian fatalities. However, in this day and age of promoting alternative transportation and also in promoting healthy activities, this new law is especially relevant. This is a statewide law, so we will all need to be working closely with the Florida Department of Transportation concerning the new signing and, of course, education as this initiative goes forward.

If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to call our MPO office at 727-464-8200.

**Pedestrian Safety Bill (SB 154)
Section 1 (s. 316.075 & 316.130, F.S.)**

“The driver of a vehicle facing a steady red signal shall stop before entering the crosswalk and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian, with a permitted signal, to cross a roadway when the pedestrian is in the crosswalk or steps into the crosswalk and is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.”

Memo Regarding Pedestrian Safety Law

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“The driver of a vehicle at an intersection that has a traffic control signal in place shall stop before entering the crosswalk and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian, with a permitted signal, to cross a roadway when the pedestrian is in the crosswalk or steps into the crosswalk and is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.”

“The driver of a vehicle at any crosswalk where signage so indicates shall stop and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross a roadway when the pedestrian is in the crosswalk or steps into the crosswalk and is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.”

“When traffic control signals are not in place or in operation and there is no signage indicating otherwise, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.”