



# Trail Safety at Crossings

With our sunny skies and active lifestyles, Florida's residents and visitors enjoy exploring our many miles of trails. Trail safety is important, particularly where trails and roadways cross. Let's put safety first!

- 1 Look & Listen
- 2 Obey Signs & Markings
- 3 Take Control of Your Own Safety

## TYPES OF CROSSINGS

The type of crossing at a trail and road intersection depends on the number of lanes, amount of traffic, and posted speed limit. What actions you should take as a trail user or motorist at these intersections depends on the type of trail crossing present. At all crossings, trail users should exercise caution and follow posted signage at intersections, and motorists should pay attention to trail crossing signs and be aware of their responsibilities at different crossings.

Signage and other features alert motorists and trail users to a crossing. **Both trail users and motorists have a responsibility to be aware of each other.**

Learn more about trail safety and view an important video message at:  
<https://floridadep.gov/Parks/OGT>



## UNMARKED CROSSINGS

Some trails cross roads but do not have a marked crossing on the roadway to alert motorists. An example might be unpaved trails, such as the Florida National Scenic Trail, in rural areas. Motorists may not be aware of the trail, so it is important that trail users exercise caution when crossing the road.

### Trail users

- » Stop and look to your left and right, and left again, to identify approaching vehicles before crossing
- » Cross the road when it is clear of vehicles
- » Consider motorist's visibility and wear reflective gear if needed

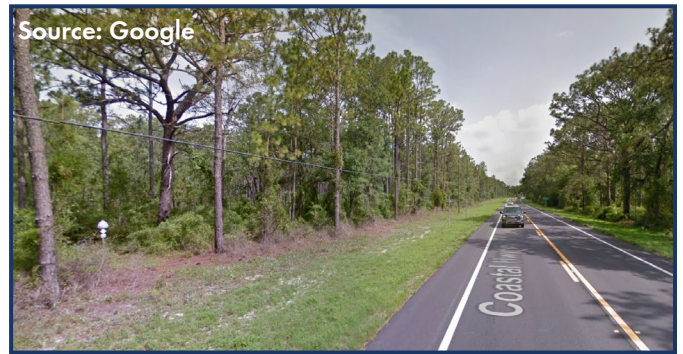
### Motorists

- » Be aware of trail users and familiar with your surroundings

Source: US Forest Service



Source: Google



## SIMPLE SIGNAGE

A crossing like the one shown below may have a yield or stop sign for the trail user, and a trail crossing sign adjacent and prior to the crosswalk will be on the road to alert motorists of the crossing.

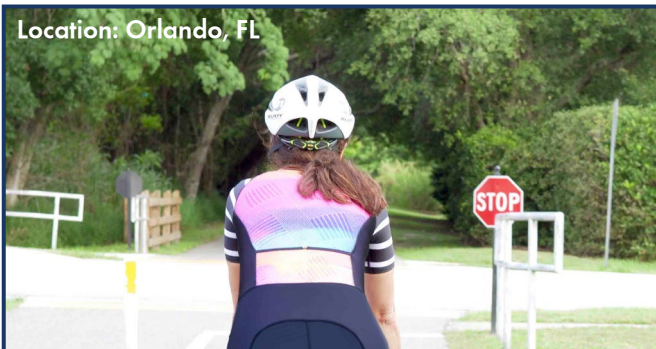
### Trail users

- » Stop or yield according to the trail signage
- » Stop and look to your left and right, and left again, to identify approaching vehicles before crossing
- » Cross the road when it is clear of vehicles

### Motorists

- » Look to the left and right of the trail crossing for approaching or waiting trail users
- » Stop or yield according to the road signage
- » Stop before the stop bar so the trail user can cross comfortably

Location: Orlando, FL



Location: Orlando, FL



Put SAFETY in YOUR Own Hands

# U

## RECTANGULAR RAPID FLASHING BEACONS

# A

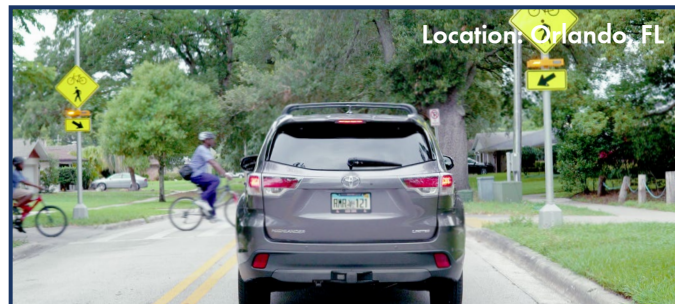
This trail crossing has Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) to alert motorists to trail users who are preparing to cross the road. Trail users press a button to activate the signal, and yellow lights flash to alert the motorists that the trail user is going to cross the road.

### Trail users

- » Press the button to activate the signal and wait for the flashing lights to come on before stepping into the crosswalk
- » Stay on the trail until any approaching vehicles have stopped
- » **Some motorists may not be aware of the need to stop, so make sure the motorist sees you before you cross the road**
- » Cross the road after vehicles have stopped

### Motorists

- » Look to the left and right of the crossing for approaching trail users, even if the flashing lights are not activated
- » Slow down and be prepared to stop for trail users
- » Stop or yield according to the road signage
- » If you do stop your vehicle, stop before the stop bar so the trail user can cross comfortably
- » It is a violation to change lanes and pass a vehicle that has stopped for trail users



# U

## HIGH INTENSITY ACTIVATED CROSSWALK

As pictured below, these flashing beacons over a road, known as HAWKs, warn motorists when a trail user is preparing to cross the road. Trail users press a button to activate the overhead signal. Yellow lights warn motorists to slow down and prepare to stop. Once the signal turns to a solid red light, motorists must stop for trail users to cross the road. Motorists may proceed once the signal is no longer solid red and the crosswalk is clear.

### Trail users

- » Press the button to activate the signal and wait for the walk signal before stepping into the crosswalk
- » Make sure the motorist sees you before you cross the road
- » Cross the road after vehicles have stopped
- » Be aware of time remaining to cross if a pedestrian countdown signal is present

### Motorists

- » Slow down and be prepared to stop for trail users
- » Stop when the signal turns red
- » Stop your vehicle before the stop bar so the trail-user can cross comfortably
- » It is a violation to change lanes and pass a vehicle that has stopped for trail users



# U

User activated

# A

Automated



## FULL STOPLIGHT



If the volume of traffic and trails users are high enough, a full stoplight may be used at a trail crossing to stop traffic for trail users. These are typically trail user activated but may also be timed or automated. Like a normal traffic signal, motorists must stop when the signal turns red. Motorist may proceed when the signal turns green.

### Trail users

- » Press the button to activate the signal and/or wait for the walk signal before stepping into the crosswalk
- » Make sure the motorist sees you before you cross the road
- » Cross the road when vehicles have stopped
- » Be aware of time remaining to cross if pedestrian countdown signal is present

### Motorists

- » Slow down and be prepared to stop for trail users
- » Stop when the signal turns red
- » Stop your vehicle before the stop bar so the trail user can cross comfortably



## HELPFUL LINKS

Learn more about trail safety and view an important video message at:  
<https://floridadep.gov/Parks/OGT>

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (FDOT):  
<https://youtu.be/RInnUoJoT48>

High Intensity Activated Crosswalks (FDOT):  
<https://youtu.be/yQOzigyMMQo>  
[https://youtu.be/XxQV\\_OXYd0w](https://youtu.be/XxQV_OXYd0w)



Staying in CONTROL Can Save a LIFE

