

Median Safety Ordinance: FAQ

What is the purpose of this ordinance?

The purpose of the Median Safety Ordinance is to promote traffic safety throughout the City. People who stand on the median create an unnecessary distraction for drivers and can ultimately create traffic congestion. Additionally, stopping or remaining on any portion of the right-of-way designed for vehicular use is not safe for the pedestrian. This is not an area intended for extended use by any person with the exception of maintenance to the right-of-way which will be conducted under the supervision of the Public Works Director and accompanied with appropriate safety precautions.

What is considered to be a median?

A median can be a painted or raised traffic island, however, both are designed to provide a barrier between opposing lanes of traffic. It is not safe for pedestrians to stop or remain in the portion of any right-of-way designed for vehicular use.

What happens when a pedestrian is not able to cross the street before the pedestrian signal changes?

In this instance, the pedestrian may wait to cross the road at the next pedestrian signal or, in absence of a pedestrian signal, when traffic has cleared or yielded.

Why did the City decide to pursue this ordinance?

Both City Council and staff received several safety-related complaints of pedestrians standing on areas within the right-of-way designed for vehicular use. Pedestrian involved accidents account for 12% of all traffic fatalities and 25% of those fatalities occur at intersections. The Mayor and City Council seek to protect the safety of the pedestrian and occupants of vehicles. Pedestrians that stop or remain within the areas of the right-of-way designed for vehicular use interrupt the safe flow of traffic and increase the danger to pedestrians and occupants of motor vehicles.

How will this ordinance be enforced?

A first alleged violation will result in a written warning by law enforcement personnel. Violations by any person previously warned by law enforcement personnel will result in a Class 3 misdemeanor.