

A Thank You to Drivers from Feet First

We are all pedestrians, some of us when we leave the front door, others when we leave a car. Feet First salutes the safe drivers who make our streets and sidewalks work for everyone. Our eight driving guidelines for walkable communities:

- 1. Give priority to pedestrians.** Yield to pedestrians at unmarked crosswalks. According to the [legal definition of a crosswalk](#), there's a crosswalk at every corner. Even when there are no signs or pavement marking, pedestrians have the right of way. Also, you must not proceed until pedestrians are either at the curb or one full lane away from you. www.seattle.gov/transportation/pedrcw.htm
- 2. Create a wide margin for error.** When yielding, always stop at least 30 feet before the crosswalk. This is (a) less threatening to the pedestrian, (b) eliminates the [multiple-threat crash risk](#), and (c) it saves everyone time. Give pedestrians a full lane and be extremely cautious when turning left at signalized intersection. walkinginfo.org/pedsafe/pedsafe_ca_crashtypes.cfm
- 3. Enforce the speed limit by setting the pace.** Since Boise Idaho invented the Neighborhood Pace Car Program in 2000, thousands of citizens across America have [signed a pledge like this one from Salt Lake City](#). Driving slower helps calm traffic – bring peace and dignity to the streets. slcgov.com/transportation/TrafficManagement/pacecar.htm
- 4. Park responsibly.** Please do not play the parking lottery by stopping or parking on the sidewalk, blocking crosswalks or curb ramps, or pulling abruptly into or out of driveways. You can even [download some notices](#) to encourage good behavior among fellow drivers. walksf.org/flyers.html
- 5. Walk the short trips between destinations.** Many of the cars on the road are making short trips that are really unnecessary. If you're driving for errands, get in some of your [30 minutes of daily physical activity](#) and contribute to the human vitality of your city's shopping districts. www.beactive.org
- 6. Smile and wave.** Your smile and a simple wave can melt away the fear that your vehicle may stimulate in the mind of pedestrians. [Refuse or remove any window tinting](#) that makes your face less visible or interferes with your ability to see. UV-blocking only treatments are available. www.doityourselftint.com/window_tint_removal.htm
- 7. Choose a safe vehicle.** You may not know it, but outside the US, vehicles are tested to determine how dangerous they are to pedestrians. Protect pedestrians and your own liability by purchasing a safe car. Look for the [European New Car Assessment Program](#) test results for crash information. www.euroncap.com/content/test_procedures/pedestrian_impact.php
- 8. Be an advocate for pedestrians.** We are all pedestrians, but pedestrians have no paid lobby and no organized industry. Feet First works as your voice of advocacy to create a safer, more efficient transportation system to serve the needs of all users. Visit www.feetfirst.info to learn more about our programs and how you could become involved.