

### Offset Crosswalk

#### Description

An Offset Crosswalk is a raised refuge island which has been cut out in a zigzag pattern. This road crossing design is also known as a Danish offset, a Z-crossing, a corral crossing, or a two-stage crossing. The zigzag pattern of the refuge island directs pedestrians to face motor vehicle traffic before completing the second stage of their crossing.

Offset crosswalks have all the same advantages of raised refuge islands with the added benefit that they encourage pedestrians to look in the direction of oncoming traffic.

#### How it Works

The offset crosswalk works by providing pedestrians and cyclists with a refuge when crossing the street at a mid-block location. By nudging them to face oncoming road traffic, pedestrians are more likely to accurately judge the speed and distance of oncoming vehicles and to make eye contact with drivers. This helps to improve drivers' yielding behaviours and encourages pedestrians to wait for safe gaps in traffic.

#### Studies have shown that:

- Offset crosswalks contribute significantly to drivers' yielding behaviour; and
- They aid in reducing the number of pedestrians who find themselves trapped in the middle of the street, and may even help to encourage pedestrians to refrain from crossing at dangerous locations.

#### Best results occur when:

- The offset crosswalk is large enough to accommodate numerous and varied road users with specific needs or large objects, including: people using strollers; people using wheelchairs or mobility scooters; and people with bicycles, including larger tandems, cargo bikes, tricycles and bicycles pulling trailers;
- Railings or tactile signs are used to assist people with visual limitations to realign themselves to the roadway prior to continuing their crossing; and
- If bicycles are also intended to use this mid-block crossing, then a wider refuge is needed, as well as wider, curved corners and elephant's feet.

