

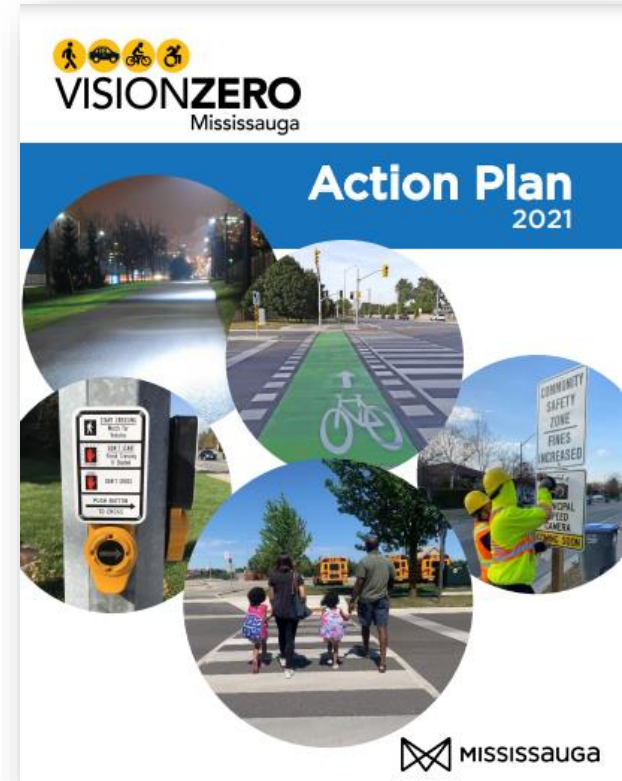
# Pedestrian Head Start Signals (Leading Pedestrian Intervals)

Presentation to Mississauga School  
Traffic Safety Action Committee  
June 28, 2023



## Background: Vision Zero

- In 2018 Mississauga adopted Vision Zero
- **Goal:** Zero serious injury or fatal collisions on our roads
- City Council approved 99 Actions to advance road safety
- Focus on needs of vulnerable road users and reducing speed



## What is a Pedestrian Head Start signal?

- The “walk” phase begins 5 seconds before the green light



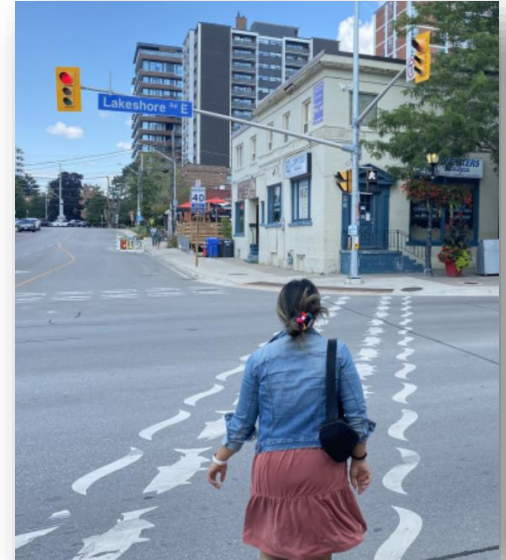
### [Link to Vision Zero](#)

This is one of the 99 actions in the Vision Zero Action Plan (“Leading Pedestrian Intervals”)

## How do Pedestrian Head Start signals increase safety?

↑ Increase visibility of people crossing in the intersection and reinforce their **right-of-way** over turning vehicles

↓ Decrease all types of collisions<sup>1</sup>, not just those involving people crossing



<sup>1</sup>Source: US Dept of Transportation. (2018). Safety Evaluation of Protected Left-Turn Phasing and Leading Pedestrian Intervals on Pedestrian Safety.

## How do Pedestrian Head Start signals impact accessibility?

- People who rely on sound of vehicle traffic do not have this cue to cross
- Best practice: Only implement where **Accessible Pedestrian Signals** are also in place



## Plan for implementation: Short Term

- Implement at locations with existing Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS)
  - There are currently 184 intersections in Mississauga with APS
- Target completion by the end of 2023



## Priority Location Installation List

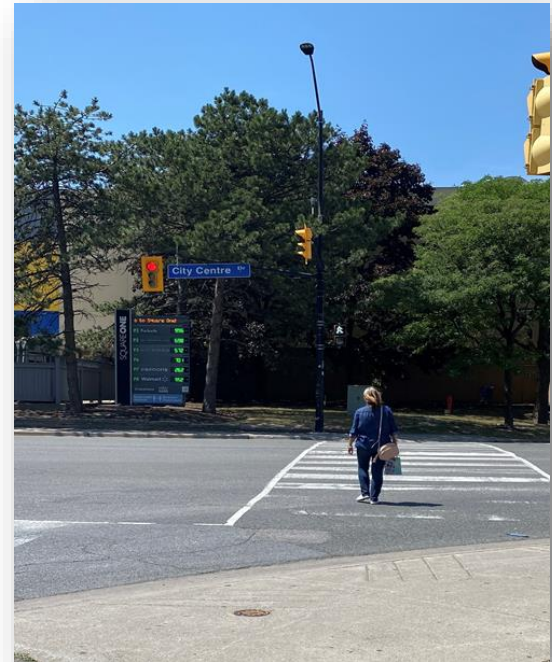
1. Crossing Guard Locations
2. Pedestrian / Cyclist Collision Locations
3. Locations near Community Centres, Arenas, Pools, Halls, etc.
4. Locations near Schools without Crossing Guards
5. Locations near GO Stations
6. Locations near Mi-Way Terminals/Mississauga Transitway Stations
7. Remaining Locations within Mississauga





## Plan for implementation: Short Term

- Any new or rebuilt traffic control signals must include Accessible Pedestrian Signals
  - This will allow staff to program Pedestrian Head Start signals on a move forward basis





## Other considerations

- Pedestrian head start will not be activated when there is an advanced green arrow
- If any pedestrian pushbutton is activated for the minor street (i.e., to cross the major street), and there are no advanced green arrows activated, both minor street Pedestrian “Walk” indications will be simultaneously displayed

## Bike Head Start Signals

- At City-owned intersections with accessible pedestrian signals AND bike signals, the bike signal will begin at the same time as the walk indication (i.e., a Bike Head Start Signal)
  - 16 intersections across the City have APS and Bike Signals



## Medium/Long Term Implementation Plan

- **Recommendation:** Build a business case to address expanding enhancements at all signalized intersections, including Accessible Pedestrian Signals, Pedestrian Head Start signals, ladder markings, and other safety enhancements



## Communication Plan for school communities:

- Website updates to include information about Pedestrian Head Start signals and Bike Head Start signals (June)
- City of Mississauga social media channels (June/July)
- “Council Corner” piece for councillors to communicate with residents
- Crossing Guard newsletter article (Back to School edition)
- Possible item for Traffic Safety Times newsletter (part of School Walking Routes program- Back to School edition)

# Thank you!

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