



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

April 27, 2005

Mr. Roger Wentz, ATSSA

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Refer to: HOTO-1

Ms. Kathy Varney
Project Coordinator
Warren-Washington County
Healthy Heart Program
100 Park Street
Glen Falls, NY 12801

Dear Ms. Varney:

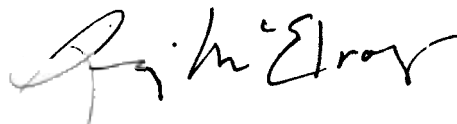
Thank you for your February 15 request to experiment with the pedestrian flag education and awareness campaign to improve the safety of pedestrians at crosswalks. We have reviewed your request and determined that the pedestrian flag is not a traffic control device. Therefore, you do not need to request approval from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to experiment with the flag. The flag concept described in your letter is similar to the concept of placing retroreflective material on clothing. Although it is not a traffic control device, it is a way to increase the visibility of pedestrians.

The FHWA shares your concern for safety of pedestrians at crosswalks, especially crosswalks that are not controlled by traffic signals. In the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) there are provisions for the use of a traffic control device known as the In-Street Pedestrian Crossing Sign (Section 2B.12). This sign may be used to remind road users of laws requiring motorists to stop or yield to pedestrians within the crosswalk. The signs are on breakaway supports and can be placed directly within the roadway to draw the attention of motorists to the presence of pedestrians in the crosswalk. The combination of installing both the crosswalk pavement markings and the in-street signs have been shown to help improve the safety of pedestrians. Another traffic control application discussed in the MUTCD for use at unsignalized crosswalks is to install yield lanes in advance of the crosswalk along with the Yield Here to Pedestrians Sign (Section 2B.11). If you would like more details about the above traffic control devices, please visit the MUTCD website at the following address: <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>. You may also want to work with the New York State Department of Transportation to explore the possibility of installing official traffic control devices such as the ones discussed above. Their address is 1220 Washington Avenue, State Campus Building 5, Albany, New York 12232-0002 and the telephone number is 518-457-4422.



We appreciate your interest in pedestrian safety and hope the above information is helpful. We also hope that your pedestrian education and awareness campaign goes well.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Regina S. McElroy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Regina" and last name "McElroy" clearly distinguishable.

Regina S. McElroy
Director, Office of Transportation
Operations

cc: Mr. Roger Wentz, ATSSA



Warren-Washington County
Healthy Heart Program

Hudson Falls Police



February 15, 2005

Regina S. McElroy, Director
Office of Transportation Operations
US DOT / Federal Highway Administration
400 Seventh Street - SW, HOTO
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Pedestrian Flag Pilot

Dear Ms. McElroy;

The Village of Hudson Falls and the Warren-Washington County Healthy Heart Program have teamed together and are seeking your approval to implement a Pedestrian Flag Safety Campaign in the village.

The pedestrian flag program would work in the following manner, a pedestrian would pick up a bright colored flag from a container at the crosswalk curb, this would signify the pedestrian's desire to cross and gain the motorist attention to the pedestrian, after crossing, the pedestrian would put the flag in another container on the opposite side. The containers would hold several flags and would be marked with instructions for their use. It is our hope that this flag program in conjunction with expanded media coverage and specialized police enforcement will significantly reduce the number of vehicle/pedestrian crashes as well as the unreported near misses that occur daily.

The Village has chosen the following three crosswalks to conduct the flag program project:

- 1.) State Route 4 (Main Street) at intersection with Washington Street.
- 2.) State Route 4 (Main Street) at intersection with State Route 196 (Maple St.)
- 3.) State Route 4 (Main Street) south of Feeder Street at the crosswalk adjoining the Feeder Canal Alliance walk and bike path.

It is our intention and desire to test this program for a period of one year from the date of approval by the Federal Highway Administration. We intend to gather useful data from these sites to measure its effectiveness, and will provide semiannual progress reports as well as a final report concerning our findings and recommendations. We agree to remove the flag containers restoring the crosswalks to the original condition after the one-year test. We further agree to terminate the program at anytime that it may be determined that there are safety concerns.

Enclosed, please find a brochure and the resolution adopted by the Hudson Falls Village Board granting permission to move forward with this campaign. The brochures will be made available at many sites throughout the village as well as on the Police Department website at www.hudsonfallspd.com.

In closing, we would like to thank you for your anticipated cooperation and approval of this test program and look forward to making pedestrian safety a reality in our Village. If you should have any questions, don't hesitate to contact either Kathy Varney, Project Coordinator (518) 926-5906 or Randy Diamond, Deputy Chief (518) 747-4011.

Thank you for your time,

Randy Diamond, Deputy Chief

Kathy Varney, Project Coordinator

RESOLUTION

Pedestrian Crosswalk Flag Awareness Program

Upon motion made by Trustee Varney, seconded by Trustee LaBarge and carried the following resolution is adopted:

WHEREAS, the Village of Hudson Falls has identified a need to educate the public regarding pedestrian crosswalk laws;

WHEREAS, the Village of Hudson falls has identified a pedestrian flag awareness program to assist in educating the public concerning crosswalks;

WHEREAS, Hudson Falls Police Department has committed their support in educating the public and enforcing the crosswalk laws, it is

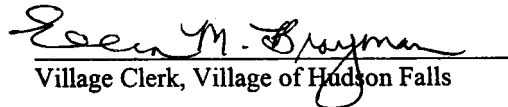
RESOLVED, that the Village of Hudson Falls request approval to run a test pedestrian flag awareness program at three crosswalks in the Village for a one year period.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and/or Village Clerk are authorized to execute any necessary documents regarding the implementation of said program.

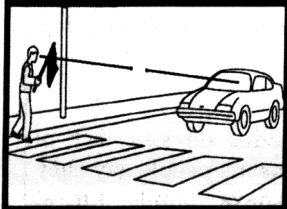
Roll Call	Trustee LaBarge	Aye
	Trustee Varney	Aye
	Mayor Carter	Aye

Dated: February 14, 2005

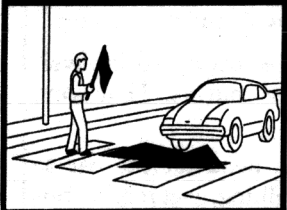
I HEREBY CERTIFY, that this is a true and correct copy of said resolution as read upon the minutes of the meeting of the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Hudson Falls, New York, held on the 14th day of February, 2005. In witness whereof, this certificate has been duly signed and sealed by the Village Clerk, Village of Hudson Falls, New York.


Village Clerk, Village of Hudson Falls

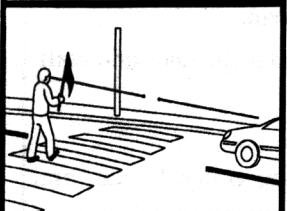
HOW TO USE CROSSWALK FLAGS



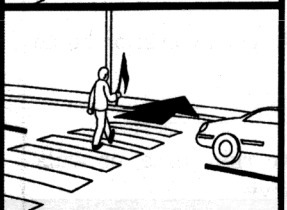
**SIGNAL TO
DRIVERS ON YOUR
LEFT. MAKE EYE
CONTACT.**



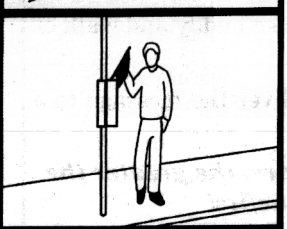
**WHEN TRAFFIC ON
YOUR LEFT HAS
STOPPED, PROCEED
WITH CAUTION.
LOOK BOTH WAYS.**



**AS YOU APPROACH
CENTER OF ROAD,
SIGNAL TO DRIVERS
ON RIGHT.**



**WHEN TRAFFIC
ON RIGHT HAS
STOPPED, COM-
PLETE YOUR
CROSSING.**



**RETURN FLAG TO
HOLDER.**

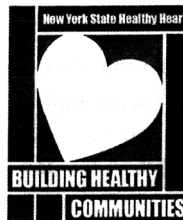
**ONE FLAG PER GROUP.
THESE FLAGS ARE HELPFUL TOOLS,
BUT REMEMBER, USE NORMAL CAU-
TION AND GOOD JUDGMENT WHEN
CROSSING THE STREET WITH OR
WITHOUT A FLAG.**

YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS: IT'S THE LAW!

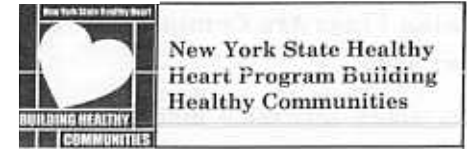
Traffic fines in Hudson Falls range from \$55—\$205 for not yielding to pedestrians in marked crosswalks.

Be active for life! Get your heart rate up at least 30 to 60 minutes a day at least 5 days a week. Eat a balanced diet with lots of fruits and vegetables.

**Warren/Washington County
Healthy Heart Program
518-926-5906**



**Hudson Falls Police
Department
518-747-4011
www.hudsonfallspd.com**



**Pedestrian Flags
Coming to an
Intersection Near
You!**



**Warren/Washington County
Healthy Heart Program
518-926-5906**

**Hudson Falls Police
Department
518-747-4011**

Pedestrian Flags Are Coming To A Crossing Near You!

You may notice something different along your usual driving or walking route: pedestrian flags. Local police will also be enforcing New York State's "yield to pedestrians" law at this location and at other marked intersections in the area.

The Warren/Washington County Healthy Heart Program, in partnership with the Hudson Falls Police Department is organizing this effort called Pedestrian Flags Over Hudson Falls, to make safer walking areas available in our community, and to encourage physical activity.

What Are Pedestrian Flags And How Do They Work?

Pedestrian flags help people cross busy streets safely by alerting drivers to stop. This is how they work. Use the flags only in marked crosswalks!

- A bucket of orange flags is located at the ends of hard-to-cross crosswalks.
- A person wanting to cross the street picks up a flag to get motorists' attention
- The motorists stop when they see the flag.
- The walker crosses the street with the flag and puts it in a container at the other end, where it will be available for the next walker.

Tips For Drivers And Walkers Most of us are both drivers and walkers at some point during our day. As a walker, we hope these flags help you cross more easily and safely, and that they break down one of the barriers to being physically active.

On the next panel are some tips for crossing with the flags. As a motorist, we ask that you please be sure to yield to walkers who are using the flags at all marked crosswalks.

You are the key to making ours a walkable community!

Tips For "Flagged Down" Drivers

- Obey the speed limit and stay well behind cars in front of you, so you can stop easily for walkers.
- Look carefully for walkers along oncoming street edges and sidewalks, and apply your brakes early and gently so the car behind you can stop too.
- Stop two or more car lengths short of the crosswalk so the walker and the cars behind you can see each other around your car more easily.

Please remember that the person crossing the street now might be the driver the next time you are walking.

Tips For Walkers

- Gauge traffic for gaps in the nearest lane. (Cars take a long time to stop: at 25 mph, allow 140 feet, or about 10 car lengths; more for speeders or bad weather conditions.
- When (and only when) you see such a gap, point to the other side of the street with the flag (or use your arm if there's no flag) while standing near curb with at least one foot in the street.
- Maintain eye contact with any oncoming driver in the lane nearest you; step into that lane as soon as the driver sees you and stops. Repeat steps lane by lane.

Remember that while the flag is a helpful tool, you still have to be careful and use good judgment when crossing the street, with or without a flag. This goes for children, too. Please don't let your child cross alone with a flag if you think he or she isn't ready to cross without one!

Finally, without being distracted, give drivers a smile, a wave, or a "thanks", whenever you can. This shows drivers that walkers appreciate their help.

Be Active for life!

Moving keeps us healthy. Regular physical activity can help us sleep better, reduce stress, and avoid gaining weight, which puts us at risk

for diabetes, high blood pressure, and other health problems. It keeps our bones and muscles strong, preventing falls and injuries. And it gives us the energy we need to keep up with our busy lives—working, taking mom to the grocery store, dropping kids or grandkids off at practice, and so much more!

Don't Have Time

Even with all our time-saving devices, lack of time is one of the main reasons people say they don't exercise. Long workdays, family duties, and other tasks get in the way and tire us out.

Sound like you? There's a solution: work physical activity into your daily routine. That way, you're sure to fit it in.

How? The next time you head for the car to run a short errand, try walking, jogging, or riding your bicycle. You also can:

- Park your car farther from the door and walk the rest of the way
- Bike to work
- Take brisk walks during coffee breaks and lunch hours
- Do your own housework, yard work, or home repairs
- Wash your own car
- Meet a friend for a bike ride, hike, or walk instead of dinner or a movie.
- Make your dog an exercise buddy and walk or jog together.
- Ditch the email and deliver the message to a coworker in person

**The more active you are, the greater the health benefits!*



Warren/Washington County
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