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Pedestrian Crossing Enforcement Actions Planned Through October

The Missoula Police Department will conduct Pedestrian Crossing Emphasis Patrols throughout the city through the month of October in an effort to improve public safety by enforcing pedestrian crossing laws within the city limits. This enforcement will begin in the mornings and continue through the afternoons on various days of the week. An important point of the effort will also be to educate both drivers and pedestrians regarding crossing laws and their respective responsibilities.

Some important traffic laws to keep in mind are as follows:

- There are crosswalks at every intersection, whether they are marked or not.
- Pedestrians can cross at mid-block only if their crossings will not interfere with traffic; otherwise, pedestrians must cross at intersections.
- In the downtown business area, pedestrians are allowed to cross only at intersections; crossing mid-block is not permitted.
- Pedestrians must obey pedestrian crossing signals when they are in operation.
- Bicyclists must yield to pedestrians crossing in a crosswalk when they are riding in the roadway or a bike lane.
- Vehicles must yield to bicycle riders crossing in a crosswalk as long as the bicyclist is moving slowly enough to allow the vehicle to yield.

With those rules in mind, enforcement of the laws related either to yielding or crossing will be part of this enforcement action. The overall goal will be to increase the safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motor vehicle operators in the area. We hope to remind everyone that they are not alone on Missoula's roadways. The streets of Missoula are heavily used by many forms of transportation, including motor

vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians and wheelchairs, and all travelers need to be aware of their surroundings and the need to share the road. This will be accomplished through education efforts and enforcement action, which includes ticketing when appropriate.

Any questions regarding pedestrian laws and responsibilities can be directed to the Missoula Police Department Traffic Office.

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