

DAWG TRACKS

SAFETY NEWSLETTER

MS Agricultural & Forestry Experiment Station
MSU Extension Service



The congestion of people trying to get to their destination by walking, driving, or riding bikes and scooters can be a bit overwhelming at times through many streets where we travel daily and especially on our MSU main campus. One minute you're driving and looking to see if another vehicle is coming, but then in a split second there is someone on a scooter flashing by or a person stepping out from between parallel parked cars. In either position, you really do have to watch out for the other person!

The reality is that if you are the person walking or riding and get hit by a car there is high a probability you will not be making it to your destination for the day but maybe to your eternal destination. So, keep these tips in mind.

- ✓ Be alert. Look where you are going, not at your phone. If you need to text, move out of the way of others and stop on the sidewalk.
- ✓ Listen to your surroundings. Be able to hear what's coming, sirens, or somebody trying to get your attention for that forewarning from danger. Wearing earbuds makes this hard to do.
- ✓ Parking lots are a place to be extra cautious while navigating through.

✓ As a pedestrian:

- Crosswalks are good but still make eye contact with drivers before you enter; never assume they will stop or even see you. Stripes on the ground for a crosswalk don't stop a vehicle.
- If no crosswalk is available and your view is blocked, move to a place where you can see oncoming traffic and they can see you.
- Wearing bright or reflective clothing and using a flashlight can help you be more visible at night or during bad weather. Because people can be harder to see then, it is statistically the most dangerous time for pedestrians.

✓ As a bike or scooter rider:

- Stay off busy sidewalks with crowds of people on foot.
- Follow the rules of the road, obeying all traffic signs and signals.
- Do not lane split or ride alongside vehicles.
- Watch for vehicle doors being opened.

✓ As a vehicle driver:

- Leave 3 feet between you and a pedestrian or rider when passing.
- Slow down in areas with heavy pedestrian traffic and be keenly aware of your surrounding; it could save a life.

For more info contact:
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Sources:

<https://www.nsc.org/>
<https://www.transportation.gov/pedestrian-bicycle-safety>
<https://www.lookup.msstate.edu/>