

Pedestrians and Bicyclists Risk and Issues in NYC

Bob Crescenzo

Lancer Insurance Company

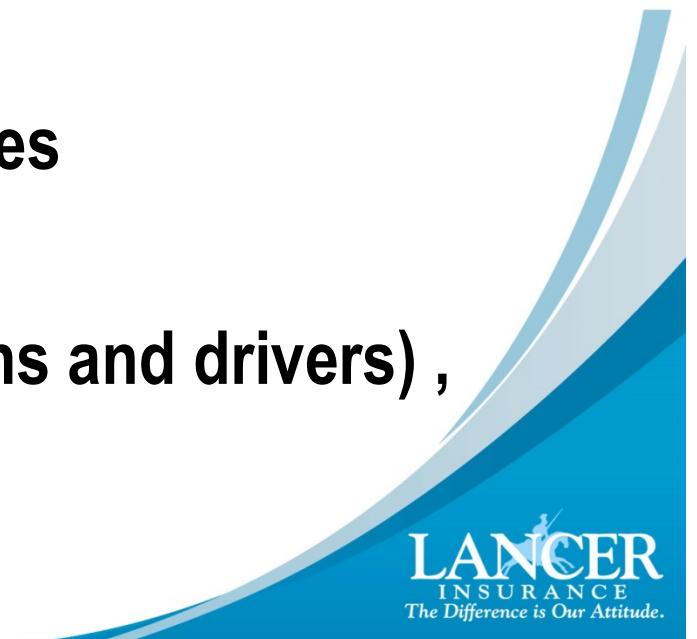
bcrescenzo@lancerinsurance.com

800-782-8902 Ext 3220



CDC Statistics -2015 and NYC.Gov

- 5,376 pedestrian deaths in traffic crashes
- 1 pedestrian death every 1.6 hours
- 129,000 pedestrians treated in the ER in non-fatal crashes
- NYC.gov - Older Pedestrians - 40 % of fatalities but only 13% of the population
- Brooklyn- Highest number of fatalities
- Male 2x higher number of fatalities
- Alcohol /drug impaired , (pedestrians and drivers) , common factor in fatalities



Lancer Bus Claims 2015-2018

- Ped Hit:
- National- 1% of claims and 12% of costs
- NY(state)- 2% of claims and 22% of costs
- NYC (all boroughs) represent 70% of the NYS claims
- Bicyclists:
- National- .25% of claims and 1% of cost
- NY(state) .50% of claims and 4% of costs
- NYC (all boroughs)represent 90% of the NYS claims
- Vast majority are under 25 mph and in clear weather

Pedestrian And Right of Way

- Under right-of-way laws, pedestrians have the right-of-way whenever they are in a crosswalk if they are following traffic and crosswalk signals. If a pedestrian walks against a traffic signal, he/she is violating the law. They cannot stop or delay movement while in the crosswalk.
- Pedestrians always have the right-of-way at unmarked crosswalks not managed by traffic lights or signals. In these situations, drivers still must yield to pedestrians, and allow them to pass before continuing through the intersection regardless of the position of vehicle in roadway.

New York

- Vehicles must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing the roadway within a crosswalk upon which the vehicle is traveling. Vehicles emerging from any alleyway, building, private road, or driveway must yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian approaching on a sidewalk extending across such alleyway, building, private road, or driveway. Pedestrians may not suddenly leave the curb and enter a crosswalk into the path of a moving vehicle that is so close the vehicle is unable to yield. Pedestrians must yield the right-of-way to vehicles when crossing outside of a marked crosswalk or an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection. At controlled intersections, pedestrians may only cross an intersection diagonally if authorized by a traffic control device.

Right of Way

- Additionally, pedestrians have the right-of-way if they are on a sidewalk that crosses the following:
- alleyway
- driveway
- road
- other avenue that is accessible by vehicles



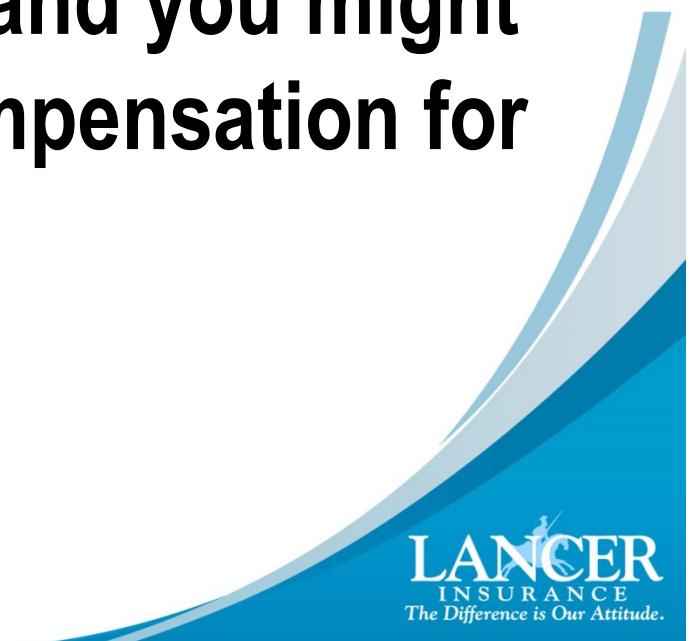
Right of Way

- **Pedestrians, regardless of whether they have the right-of-way, should always look for motorists before stepping into the street. Pedestrians may not step off the curb into the path of a vehicle that does not have the time to stop.**



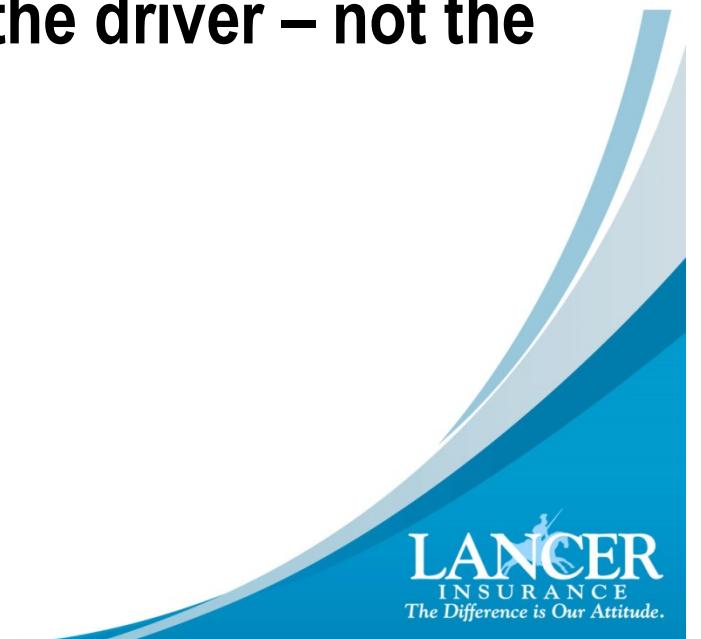
Issues

- **Liability** – If you violate crosswalk laws and subsequently end up in a traffic accident, an investigation could find you liable for victims' damages and you might disqualify yourself from compensation for your own injuries



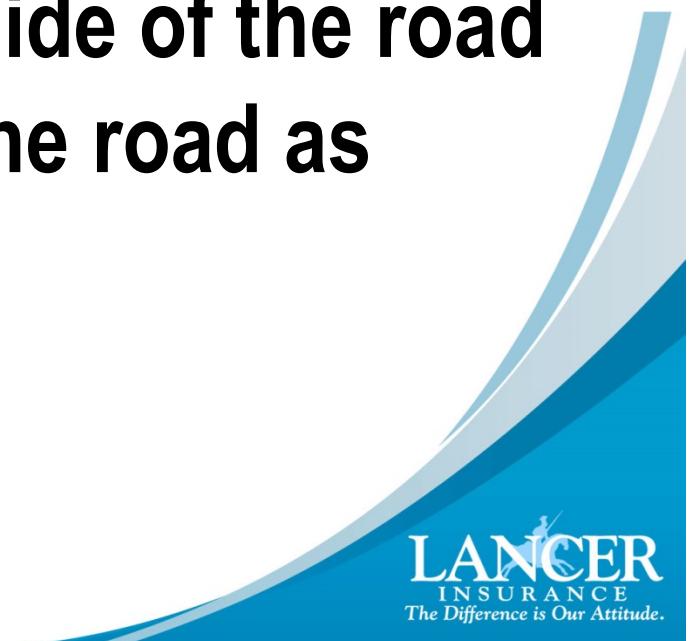
Motorists Have Right-Of-Way

- Pedestrians do not always have the right-of-way. If they are not crossing a street at an intersection, crosswalk, or overhead pedestrian tunnel, it is the driver – not the pedestrian – that has right-of-way.



Motorist-Right Of Way

- When pedestrians are walking on the side of the road they must use shoulder or walkway if one is available or
- They must walk on the left side of the road (facing traffic) as far from the road as possible



Issues and Risks

- Booking and Scheduling Trips
- Dispatch and Maintenance
- Driver Experience with Vehicle, Destination, Passengers
- Group/Customer Demands
- Destination Issues- Location, Dropoff/Pickup, Parking
- External Issues : competing events, traffic shifts, construction, changing available roadways, conflicting responses from law enforcement, venue, etc

Solutions

- Driver Training Specific to NYC Routes and Driving
- Training Runs to NYC Locations
- Keep Updated On All Traffic and Parking Changes
- Plan the Specific Route for the Specific Trip in Advance, Assist the Driver
- Avoid Use of Non-Commercial GPS
- Know and Review all Web based resources for traffic, weather, events and bus parking in NYC

Solutions (con't)

- Encourage Drivers to Keep Other Drivers Up to Date on Their Recent NYC Driving Experiences
- Use the Bus Lanes
- Understand Bike Lanes and Their Impact on Driving
- Provide the Vision Zero Materials to Driver and Customers
- Provide Information to Customers Before Trip Regarding Where the Driver will Drop off and Park

Congestion Pricing

- Complex Issue for Buses
- Buses Are Not Trucks Making Deliveries
- Buses Reduce The Number Of Cars On The Road
- Economic Issues- Bus Companies Do Not Control The Time An Event Begins- Arrival and Departure Is Preset
- Possible Increased Traffic At Certain Times Adding To The Overall Risk vs Reduced Traffic at Peak Times

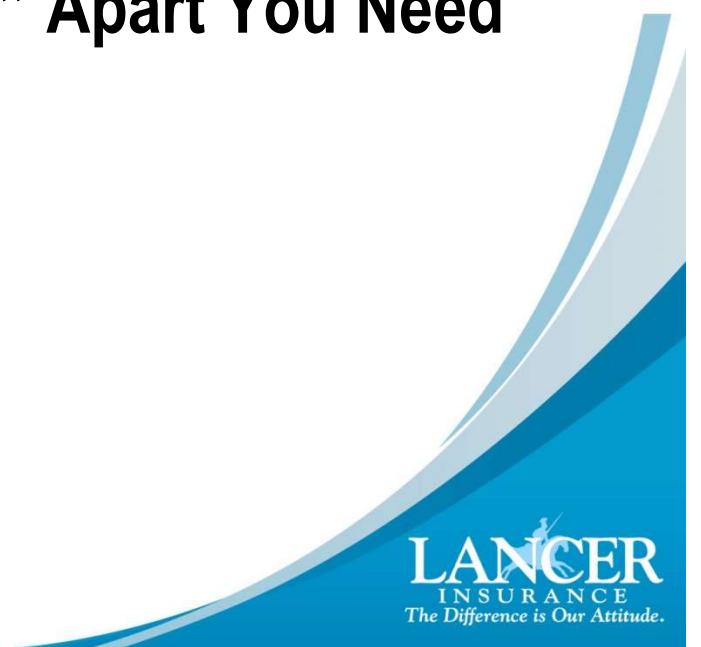
Training Resources and Suggestions

- Turning Basics
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrYJOGUbh14&snse=em>
- <https://vimeo.com/39075192>



Distance Exercise

- Group 1- 10 people- this group is the bus
- Group 2- 4 people- this group is the bicycle
- Come on Up and Let's See “how far” Apart You Need to Be



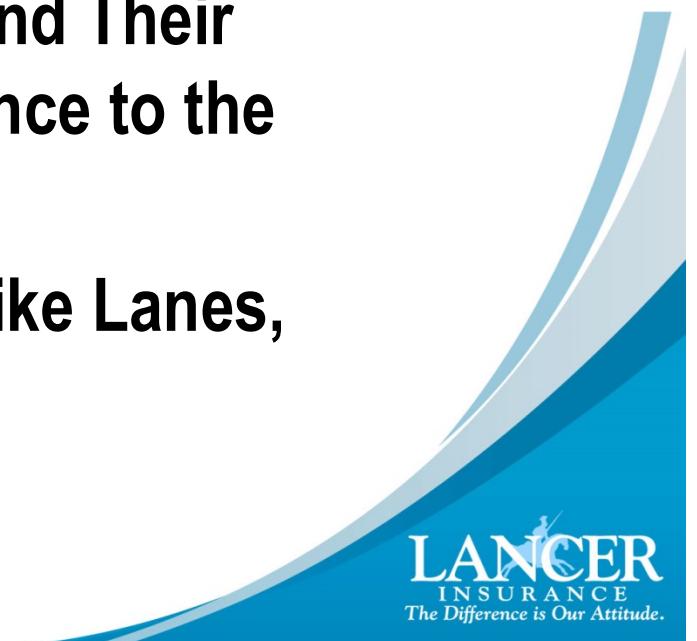
Distance and Distraction

- Let's add in some distractions:
- Name some!
- OK, let's try them out!



Best Ideas for Managing Pedestrians and Bicyclists

- Look and Scan Right, Left, Right
- Expect that they Will Dart Out of Cross Into Your Path
- Slow Down and Cover Brake
- Be Careful to Include your Mirrors and Their Dimensions when Calculating Distance to the Pedestrian or Bicyclist
- Locate and Observe Movement in Bike Lanes, Especially Fast Moving Bicyclists



Change Blindness- Impact On Driving

- Missing something **RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES!**
- **WHY-**
- Focused Attention and Limited Resources
- Expectation and Past Experiences
- Distractions- even mud on the windshield or talking to another person



Driving Challenges

- Failure to detect changes in the environment while you are driving can lead to dire, sometimes fatal, consequences.
- Researchers have found that distractions such as talking on the phone or texting can impact attention and lead to increased *Change Blindness*.



Distractions

- Visual
- Cognitive
- Physical



Thank You !

