

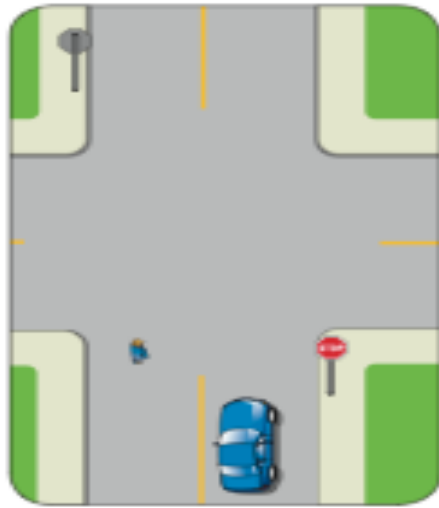
Our Road Code and Pedestrians.

I have always been pleasantly surprised when I visit North America, vehicles stop for pedestrians as you approach the road to cross.

Some people suggest that they don't have ACC and the driver will get sued, I suggest that their roads codes are focused on pedestrian safety.

Robert Lipka an Urban Designer from Auckland Transport showed me the British Columbia (BC, Canada) road code. He was surprised by the different and better treatment pedestrians get in BC compared to here.

First there is this picture from the BC road code.



If there is an unmarked crosswalk, stop where you would if there were a marked crosswalk.

If there is an unmarked crosswalk stop where you would if there were a marked crossing.

This is treating pedestrians like any other flow of traffic at the intersection. In NZ we cower at the corner and walk behind the car.

Here are the rules for the equivalent of the Give Way sign.

Intersections controlled by yield signs

A yield sign means that you must let the traffic on the through road have the right-of-way. You may enter the intersection without stopping if there are no pedestrians, cyclists or vehicles on the through road. But you must slow down (and stop if necessary) and wait for a safe gap if there is traffic on the through road.

Yet in the NZ road code (box following) there is only mention of vehicles.

What are the Give Way rules?

- If you are turning at an intersection, give way to all vehicles not turning.
- If you are turning left at an intersection, give way to vehicles coming towards you that are turning right.
- In all other situations, give way to all vehicles coming from your right.
- If you are leaving the path of a marked centre line, you are deemed to be turning and must give way to vehicles that are following the centre line.

In the NZ Road Code section named *About Driving* the word pedestrian occurs once in the same area of the BC Road Code (chapter 4) occurs 10 times.

In the NZ Road Code section on Sharing the Road pedestrian occurs 19 in the BC Road Code on Sharing the Road (chapter 6) pedestrian occurs 25 times.

The Victorian (Australia) Road Code also has the pedestrian focus that our Road Code does not have.

Living Streets executive has agreed to advocate for change in the Road Code to bring the pedestrian out of the cold. This will be our focus over the next few years.

Andy Smith