

Community Crosswalks

Special painted crosswalks are a great way to represent a neighborhood. They can be used to showcase a community's unique culture and history or just liven up an intersection with artistic and colorful stripes.

Applicant

- Applications will only be accepted from organizations meeting one of the following category criteria:
 - **Nonprofit Organization.** A qualified nonprofit organization must meet the following criteria:
 - A city of Yakima-based organization; and
 - A nonprofit organization, having obtained IRS certification as tax exempt.
 - **Community Based Organization.** A community-based organization must meet the following criteria:
 - A not for profit organization aimed at making desired improvements to the community's social health, well-being and overall functioning that may be tied to a particular geographical or cultural community based in the City of Yakima.
 - Registered with the State of Washington Secretary of State as a Washington nonprofit entity.
- Applicants must provide proof of a business license or proof that an exemption to the business license requirements of YMC 5.52 applies

Application

Applications for painting or marking in the crosswalk shall be made through a Right-of-Way Use Permit, pursuant to YMC 8.20.

When processing the application, the code administration manager shall examine each application for compliance with the requirements of that chapter, and the requirements outlined in this policy.

Applicant Responsibilities

In addition to the responsibilities and requirements of YMC 8.20, the Applicant is also responsible for the following:

- Applicant shall list in the application the materials intended to be used, including, but not limited to the specific brand and type of paint. The City, in its sole discretion, may dictate the types of materials that may be used to paint or mark the crosswalks. Failure to use the materials required will result in a revocation of the permit and applicant shall pay any damages associated with the use of non-approved materials.
- Applicant must fund the design, materials, installation, and any other costs
- Applicant must provide a traffic control plan as part of installation.
- Applicant must maintain the crosswalk design and secure any additional temporary street closure and other permits to install and conduct maintenance as necessary, in a timely manner, and at their own expense. Condition of the crosswalk markings will be evaluated annually and the City of Yakima Public Works Department (DPW) will have sole authority in determining if markings need to be refreshed or removed. DPW will provide notice to the Applicant of its decision and the Applicant will have fourteen (14) calendar days to either refresh or remove the markings at their own expense. Failure to do so will result in the City having the markings removed and charging the costs and expenses to the Applicant. Applicant shall pay those expenses within thirty (30) days of receipt.

Locations

To be considered for the crosswalks program, any crosswalk proposed by Applicant to be painted or marked must meet the following requirements:

- The crosswalk **must be at a location where there is already a marked crosswalk.**
- The crosswalk must be at a location where a vehicle is already required to stop, either due to a stop sign or traffic signal.
- To the extent possible, the crosswalk should be on the lower traffic volume, shorter width streets at intersections. This will help extend the life of markings, limit overall square footage, and bring cost down.
- Only local streets are appropriate. The following streets are not eligible locations for this program: Streets classified arterial or collector streets; or streets owned or maintained by Washington State, Yakima County or the federal government.

- If multiple crosswalks exist at the location, crosswalks on all legs of the targeted street should be considered for decorative crosswalks.

Pavement condition

When evaluating locations for an application, the following guidelines apply with regards to pavement conditions:

- Pavement at the crosswalk(s) must be in good condition to help the colored material bond well. If an applicant chooses to move forward with a project at a crosswalk that may not meet these conditions, it does so at its own risk of increased maintenance costs.
- The City is under no obligation to improve a street's condition to allow for crosswalk markings.

Design

The Arts Commission and the City will evaluate the application taking into account the following guidelines:

- The primary purpose of this program is to create a **public benefit**. Therefore, images that convey messages appearing to advertise, or promote a private entity (corporation, neighborhood business, chamber of commerce, or other community organization) will not be accepted. No logos, religious or political symbols, words, letters, or text, shall be part of any crosswalk marking design.
- The crosswalk design must reside within the two white horizontal markings. The City shall maintain the two white horizontal markings to ensure the crosswalk remains compliant with Manual Uniform Traffic Control Device (MUTCD) standards.
- Images that create a driver distraction or could be confused with traffic signs or traffic pavement legends will not be accepted.
- The design should contribute to the visual quality of the streetscape. For example, consider using a limited palette of colors and simple graphic images to avoid visual clutter. This will also keep costs down. If original artwork is being created, a lead artist/designer should be responsible for designing the images.

- If more than one crosswalk has been identified for the intersection, artwork should have consistency of style amongst the crosswalks to create a unified aesthetic appearance at the intersection.
- The City Traffic Engineer will review each application to determine its appropriateness at the intersection. Applications are due 60 days in advance of the desired date. The City shall have 30 days to review said permit application and issue a finding.

Costs

Applicant is responsible for the permit fee as required under YMC 8.20 and all costs associated with the crosswalk project.

- Costs for a typical crosswalk are estimated to be \$25/square foot of material, depending on length, design, and complexity of traffic control during installation.
- It is likely that traffic will need to be detoured during installation and maintenance activities, the costs of which shall be paid by Applicant (e.g. traffic control, personnel, equipment).

Maintenance

Applicant is responsible for all maintenance, and the costs and expenses thereof, during the permit period and any extensions thereto.

- Depending on the amount of vehicle traffic on the street, painted crosswalks can last 3-5 years. Right-of-Way Use Permits are issued for one year. If you wish to extend your permit you may do so through the process listed in YMC 8.20.070.

Approval Process

In addition to the process outlined in YMC 8.20, the following are also part of the application process:

- Applications will be forwarded to the Arts Commission for review and recommendation to City staff. As part of the review, the Yakima Arts Commission shall evaluate the project based on the criteria listed herein. The Arts Commission may review it as a full body or may appoint a sub-committee to review such applications. If the Arts Commission does not provide a recommendation to City staff within thirty (30) days of forwarding the Application to the Arts Commission chair, the Arts Commission forfeits its ability to comment on the application and City staff will move forward with finalizing its decision.

- Once the Right-of-Way User Permit for the crosswalk project is approved, Applicant can move forward with coordinating installation with the DPW. Applicant is responsible for installation of the artwork and/or markings. Failure to coordinate installation with the DPW, failure to follow the permit requirements, and/or failure to use the materials approved by DPW are all grounds for revocation of the permit.