Highway Crossings

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Introduction

A highway crossing is simply what is commonly referred to as a crosswalk. Any time there is marked indication that pedestrians are going to be crossing a street at a certain point we need to be sure to model it.

Where to Model Crossings

A crossing is always modeled as a node and proper indication for you to model one can range from markings on the road to simply the presence of a sidewalk headed across, but stopping right before and continuing at the other end of the road.

When you find the indication that a crossing is present, you add a node at the location of the crossing and mark it with the **highway=crossing** tag

Crossing Types

After you model a crossing with the highway=crossing tag you further need to specify what type of crossing it is with the **crossing=*** key. There are three possible values: **unmarked**, **uncontrolled**, and **traffic_signals**

Unmarked

This type of crossing has no road markings or traffic lights. You nonetheless still know it's there due to context clues like the aforementioned sidewalk example or the presence of a lowered curb.

Examples:



This is the most common type of **crossing=unmarked**, simply a break in the sidewalk, but that alone is enough to justify labeling a crossing in this spot. Also notice the yellow sloped curb markings.



In this case there aren't even yellow sloped curbed markings but the break in the sidewalk is enough to demonstrate that there is a crossing here.



This is an interesting case as the crossing involves an alley merging into a road.

The alley (red-brownish color) is going in an up down direction, intersecting a sidewalk on its way to the road hence the existence of a crossing. The edges are also marked by yellow sloped curb markings, but because the crossing itself has no markings it would still be highway=unmarked

Uncontrolled

This means that there are markings on the road, but no traffic lights. This is probably the most common type of crossing you will encounter when mapping.

Example:



All of the crossings in this four way intersection would be classified as crossing=uncontrolled

Traffic Signals

The **traffic_signals** value means that there are lights which can alert the drivers of the crossing. These can be difficult to confirm using aerial imagery, but remember that you are also allowed to use street level imagery when mapping.

Example:



This is one of the cases where you can clearly see that the crossing clearly has traffic lights. It's a lot easier to notice from aerial imagery because the crossing isn't at an intersection, so there's nothing else the lights could be for.

Taking Into Account the Curb

The lowered curb, usually marked with yellow paint, has so far been used as a reference to establish where crossings occur. As it happens, even the lowered curb has to be tagged though using British spelling. Whenever a crossing occurs at a lowered curb you must use the **kerb=lowered** tag.