

LEARN ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY!



GUARDIANS OF ROADWAY SAFETY

UNDERSTANDING BLIND PEDESTRIANS

MANY PEDESTRIANS MAY BE UNAWARE OF JUST HOW BLIND PEDESTRIANS ARE ABLE TO NAVIGATE PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC. BELOW ARE JUST A FEW OF THE STEPS BLIND PEDESTRIANS TAKE, SO BE AWARE!

- ① **LOCATING THE STREET** PEDESTRIANS WHO ARE BLIND DETERMINE WHEN THEY REACH A STREET USING A COMBINATION OF CUES, SUCH AS THE CURB OR SLOPE OF A RAMP, TRAFFIC SOUNDS, AND DETECTABLE WARNINGS.
- ② **STREET RECOGNITION** THEY THEN RECOGNIZE WHICH STREET THEY HAVE COME TO. MANY DEVELOP A MENTAL MAP AND TRACK WHERE THEY ARE WITHIN IT DUE TO THE INFORMATION NOT ALWAYS BEING PROVIDED IN AN ACCESSIBLE FORMAT. THEY MAY ALSO SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM OTHERS.
- ③ **INTERSECTION ASSESSMENT** THEY ALSO OBTAIN CRITICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SURROUNDING INTERSECTION SUCH AS LOCATION OF THE CROSSWALK, DIRECTION OF THE OPPOSITE CORNER, NUMBER OF INTERSECTING STREETS, WIDTH OF THE STREET TO BE CROSSED, AND ANY ISLANDS OR MEDIANS. SOUNDS OF TRAFFIC ALSO HELP TO DETERMINE SOME OF THESE FACTORS.
- ④ **CROSS THE ROADWAY** THEY THEN ALIGN TO FACE TOWARDS THE DESTINATION CURB, DETERMINE THE INTERSECTION IS SIGNALIZED, AND PUSH A BUTTON (WHEN NECESSARY). ONE TECHNIQUE USED BY BLIND PEDESTRIANS IS TO CROSS WHEN THERE IS A SURGE OF THROUGH TRAFFIC ON THE CLOSEST SIDE OF THE STREET PARALLEL TO THEIR DIRECTION OF TRAVEL.

