

## Meridian, Mississippi Ordinance

## Chapter 23 Traffic and Motor vehicle

## Article III

## Section 23-89

## Sec. 23-89.1 - Preamble.

Whereas, the City Council hereby finds that the high volume of motor vehicles travelling on congested roadways in the City of Meridian makes mixing pedestrian and the moving, slowing or temporarily stopping of motor vehicles in the same space, at the same time, inherently dangerous. The City Council finds that pedestrians distracting drivers from the task of driving: by approaching a stopped vehicle, attracting and/or attempting to attract the attention of the driver of a motor vehicle for the purpose of inducing that driver to slow or stop the vehicle to facilitate the transfer of anything from the driver or occupant of the vehicle to the pedestrian or the transfer of anything by the pedestrian to the driver or passenger is hazardous to public;

The City Council further finds that the prohibitions set forth in this chapter are narrowly tailored to serve the significant interest of promoting and protecting the public health, safety and welfare and that said prohibitions leave open ample alternative channels of communication throughout the City;

Whereas, the intent of this section to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City of Meridian, and to assure the free, orderly, undisrupted movement of motor vehicles on designated highways within the City limits, and to provide for the safety and interests of pedestrians and of occupants of motor vehicles located on designated roadways within the City of Meridian and to reduce the number of pedestrian and motor vehicle accidents occurring within the City; and

Whereas, pedestrians are increasingly using highways and roadways in ways for which the roads were not designed or intended. These uses include approaching vehicles when stopped or in use or staying upon medians and in the public right of way for purposes other than crossing the highway. These activities create safety hazards for pedestrians and distract drivers, making automobile accidents more likely. This chapter is designed to decrease the safety hazards by restricting such activity. These safety concerns are most acute in the busiest streets within the City of Meridian, identified as arterial streets, main trafficways and those within a congested district.

## Sec. 23-89.2 - Definitions.

As used in this section the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

Except where the content otherwise specifically requires, as used in this Ordinance, the following definitions from Miss. Code Ann. § 63-3-125 are hereby incorporated in and apply to this Ordinance:

- (a) "Street or highway" means the entire width between property lines of every way or place of whatever nature when any part thereof is open to the use of the public, as a matter of right, for purposes of vehicular traffic.
- (b) "Laned highway" means a highway the roadway of which is divided into three or more clearly marked lanes for vehicular traffic.
- (c) "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.
- (d) "Sidewalk" means that portion of a street between curb lines, or the lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines intended for the use of pedestrians.
- (e) "Private road or driveway" means every way or place in private ownership and used for vehicular travel by the owner and those having express or implied permission from the owner but not by other persons.
- (f) "Through highway" means every highway or portion thereof at the entrances to which vehicular traffic from intersecting highways is required by law to stop before entering or crossing the same and when stop signs are erected as provided in this Ordinance.

"Island" or Median" means the paved or unpaved area between traffic lanes dividing a street or highway into separates lanes of traffic traveling in opposite directions, or in the case of left or right turn lanes, vehicles traveling in the same direction.

**Sec. 23-89.3 – Prohibition Against Entering or Staying Upon A Designated Roadway.**

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to enter any designated roadway, or remain alongside any designated roadway, and approach a vehicle stopped on the roadway to attract, or attempt to attract the attention of the driver or occupant of a motor vehicle for the purpose of inducing the driver of the motor vehicle to remain stopped, slow or stop the vehicle to facilitate a transfer of anything from the driver or occupant of the vehicle to the pedestrian or the transfer of anything by the pedestrian to the driver or occupant.
- (b) No person shall activate a pedestrian crosswalk signal for any purpose other than to stop traffic to allow such person to cross the roadway.
- (c) No driver or operator of a motor vehicle shall park, stop or leave standing a vehicle on a designated roadway or suddenly decrease the speed of such vehicle or deviate from a traffic lane to respond to persons violating Subsections (a) or (b).
- (f) Exceptions:

This chapter does not apply to:

- (1) Persons in or upon public or private parking lots, alleys or private roads;
- (2) Persons using a crosswalk to cross the roadway;
- (3) Persons engaged in law enforcement, emergency or rescue activities, including providing assistance to an injured or disabled vehicle or person;

