Pedestrian countdown timers are shown to increase effectiveness of pedestrians leaving the crosswalk before a traffic signal changes to a new phase. Traditional pedestrian timers have been shown to be misinterpreted when the use of the flashing hand is used for pedestrian crossings. Pedestrian countdown timers help pedestrians interpret the pedestrian crossing more easily. For intersections with a median refuge, pedestrians can also utilize the countdown timers with greater ability when needing to determine whether they need to stop at the median or not.