

A National Study Confirms It's A Better Left-Turn Signal

A national study conducted by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) has demonstrated that drivers find flashing yellow left-turn arrows more understandable than traditional yield-on-green indications.

Flashing Yellow Arrows reduce confusion since the left-turn display is no longer the same indication as what is displayed for the adjacent through lanes.

The New National Standard

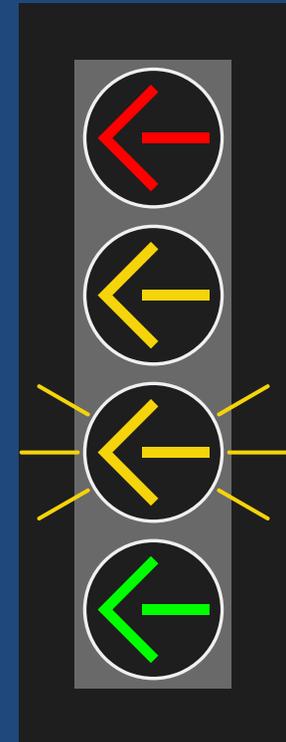
The Federal Highway Administration has adopted the flashing yellow arrow as the national standard for permissive left-turn operations.



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What to know about

Flashing Yellow Left-turn Arrows



The Montana Department of Transportation is implementing a new traffic signal display to provide a safer, more efficient left turn for motorists. The Flashing Yellow Arrow left-turn indication is a new type of display that replaces the circular green indication for permissive left turns at signalized intersections.

What Is It?

It's a new type of signal display placed over the left turn lane at signalized intersections. The flashing yellow arrow means that drivers are allowed to turn after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. Oncoming traffic has a green light so drivers must determine if there is an adequate gap before turning.

The new flashing yellow arrow indication provides a more direct message than the circular green for turn lanes. It reduces confusion since the turn lane display is no longer the same indication as what is displayed for the adjacent through lanes.

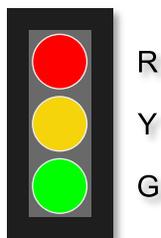
Where Will Flashing Yellow Arrows Be Used?

Flashing yellow arrows will be used in signal displays above left turn lanes with permissive left turn movements. This includes permissive-only and protected/permissive left turn movements.

Signal Display Changes

Permissive-only Left-turn – 3 Section

Traditional

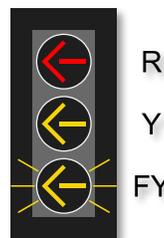


R

Y

G

New



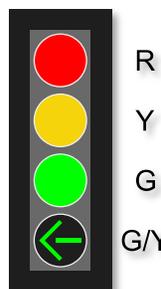
R

Y

FY

Protected/Permissive Left-turn – 4 Section

Traditional



R

Y

G

G/Y

New



R

Y

FY

G

Indication Meanings



Steady Red Arrow-

Drivers must stop and may not enter the intersection.



Steady Yellow Arrow-

Drivers are warned the turning signal is turning red. Do not enter the intersection if you can stop safely. Vehicles in the intersection should safely complete their turn.



Flashing Yellow Arrow-

Drivers are allowed to turn after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. Oncoming traffic has a green light. Drivers must determine if there is an adequate gap before turning.



Steady Green Arrow-

Drivers making a turn have the right-of-way.