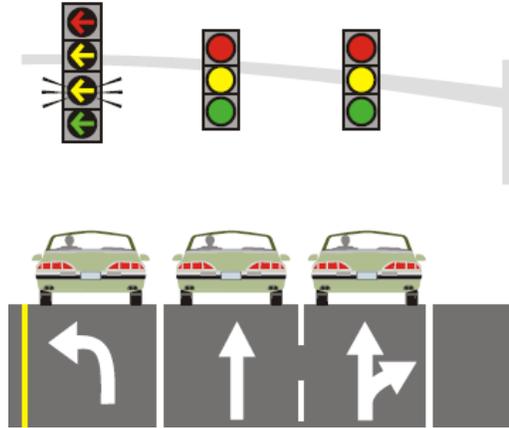


# The Flashing Yellow Arrow Sequence



**Solid Red Arrow-**  
Drivers turning left must stop and wait



**Solid Green Arrow-**  
Drivers can proceed with left turn



**Solid Yellow Arrow-**  
Drivers prepare to stop



**Solid Red Arrow-**  
A short clearance interval where drivers turning left must stop and wait



**Flashing Yellow Arrow-**  
Drivers may proceed with left turn after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians



**Solid Yellow Arrow-**  
Drivers prepare to stop

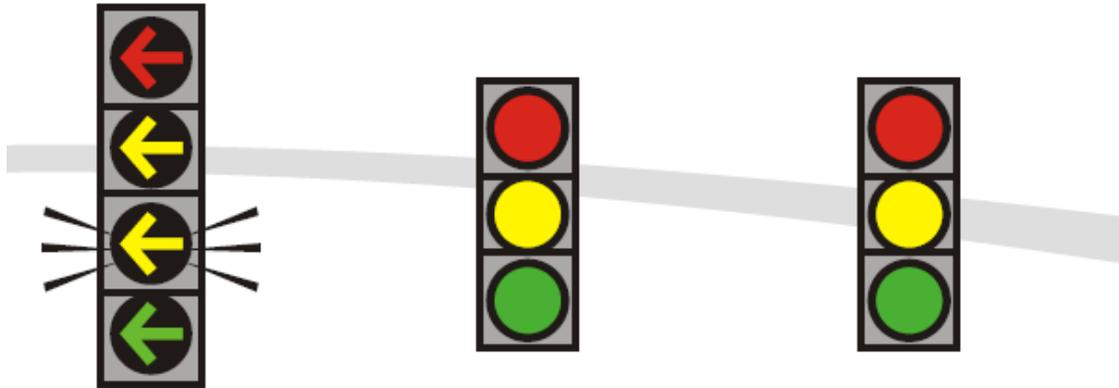


**Solid Red Arrow-**  
Drivers turning left must stop and wait



 Indicates Flashing

# Flashing Yellow Arrow Traffic Signal



## Purpose

The flashing yellow arrow is designed to improve safety, reduce congestion, and allow operational flexibility.

## Description

The new signal display will consist of a steady red arrow, a steady yellow arrow, a flashing yellow arrow, and a steady green arrow. The green arrow protects left-turning traffic from oncoming traffic, and the flashing yellow arrow tells left-turning traffic to first yield to oncoming traffic before turning. The steady yellow arrow and steady red arrow work much the same as they always have. The flashing left turn arrow display is placed in the center of the left turn lane for better visibility.

## Safety

The new signal display will help to improve safety and reduce traffic delays. Implementation of the new display is a result of research conducted by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Project 3-54. The program found the flashing yellow arrow to be highly effective at reducing driver confusion. It is seen as a low-cost measure that greatly improves motorist safety at signalized intersections. The yellow arrow provides a clear distinction between when motorists who are turning their vehicles are protected from oncoming traffic and when they must yield.

## Flexibility

At congested traffic signals there are times of day when no adequate gaps in opposing traffic exist to make a yielding left turn. These intersections typically exhibit a high number of collisions. In most cases, a “protected” red, yellow, and green arrow signal head is installed to reduce accidents. However, the yielding “permissive” left turn may be safe during off peak periods, in which case drivers need to unnecessarily wait for the green arrow to make a left turn. The flashing yellow arrow can be operated in the “protected only” mode during the evening commute and allow flashing yellow “permissive” lefts throughout the rest of the day.

## Coming Soon

Engineers have selected approximately 50 locations throughout the Commonwealth where the Flashing Yellow Arrow could potentially be installed. Expanded use of this display will depend on the effectiveness of this initial effort.

## For additional information contact:

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