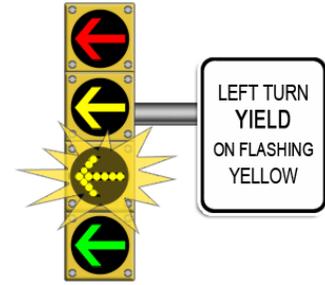




Introducing Flashing Yellow Left-turn Arrow Traffic Signals



The flashing yellow left-turn arrow signal is a new traffic management tool designed to keep traffic moving, increase safety and reduce fuel consumption. The new signal features a flashing yellow left-turn arrow, in addition to a red, green and steady yellow arrow. The flashing yellow arrow replaces the circular green signal used in the traditional left-turn signal configuration to indicate the need for left-turning vehicles to yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians.

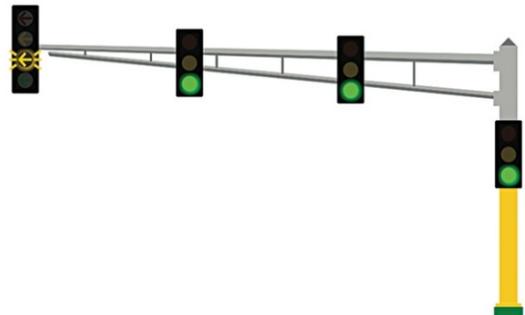
Where will the new signal be installed?

The City of Houston will be installing flashing yellow arrow indications at new and reconstructed signalized intersections that meet minimum requirements for this type of operation. Factors analyzed include traffic volumes, visibility and adequate gaps on oncoming traffic. Additionally, installations will be considered at existing intersections where the need for protected/permissive left turn mode is identified.

Why to change?

The flashing yellow left-turn arrow is intended to:

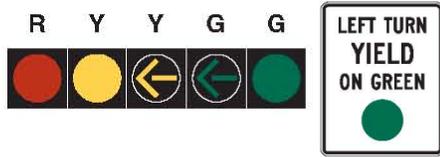
- **Help prevent crashes.** A national study demonstrated that drivers found flashing yellow left-turn arrows more understandable than traditional yield-on-green indications.
- **Reduce traffic delays.** There are more opportunities to make a left turn with the flashing yellow left-turn arrow than with the traditional three-arrow, red, yellow and green indications. This helps reduce delays at intersections, which save time and fuel.
- **Provide more traffic management flexibility.** The new traffic signals provide traffic engineers with more options to facilitate traffic flow.



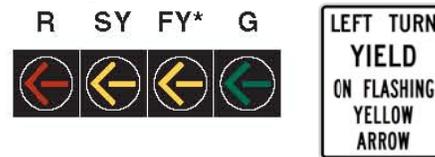
How does a flashing yellow left-turn arrow work?

A flashing yellow arrow means left turns are permitted, but you must first yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians, and then proceed with caution. The flashing yellow arrow does not replace the solid yellow arrow and its meaning; it does replace the green "ball" indication as a signal for a yielding left turn.

Traditional



New



How should drivers approach a flashing yellow left-turn signal?

Drivers should stop at the intersection and yield to oncoming traffic. If, and when, it is safe, make your left turn and proceed through the intersection. When the available time for the flashing yellow arrow ends, the solid yellow left-turn arrow begins. The solid yellow retains its standard meaning – the left turn signal is about to go to red, so you must prepare to stop or complete your left turn if already in the intersection.

Here's what the new signals look like and mean.

The flashing yellow arrow traffic signals consist of four arrow lights that are used exclusively for left-turning traffic. The arrow traffic signals are separate from the traffic signals containing the circular "ball" lights for through traffic.

Flashing Yellow Arrow Operation



Steady Red Arrow

Drivers wishing to turn left must stop and wait at stop line.



Steady Yellow Arrow

Warns drivers that left turn signal is about to turn red and should be prepared to stop or complete turn if already at intersection.



Flashing Yellow Arrow

Allows drivers to turn left after yielding to oncoming traffic and any pedestrians in the crosswalk. Oncoming traffic has green light. Drivers must wait for safe gap before turning.



Steady Green Arrow

Allows drivers to turn left while opposing through traffic has a red indication. Should proceed with caution.