



A safer, more efficient left-turn signal

Safer

A national study demonstrated that drivers found flashing yellow left-turn arrows more understandable than traditional yield-on-green indications (individual traffic signal lights).

Less delay

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.

More flexibility

The new traffic signals provide traffic engineers with more options to handle variable traffic volumes..

Minnesota Department of Transportation

Office of Traffic, Safety and Technology

1500 West County Road B2

Roseville, MN 55113

Jerry Kotzenmacher

Phone: 651-234-7054

E-mail: jerry.kotzenmacher@state.mn.us



**A safer,
more
efficient
left-turn
signal**



What the arrows mean



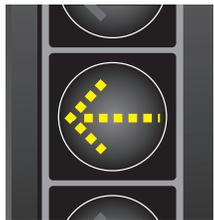
Solid red arrow:

Drivers intending to turn left must stop and wait. They should not enter an intersection to turn when a solid red arrow is being displayed.



Solid yellow arrow:

The left-turn signal is about to change to red and drivers should prepare to stop or prepare to complete a left turn if they are legally within the intersection and there is no conflicting traffic present.



Flashing yellow arrow:

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



Solid green arrow:

Left turns have the right of way. Oncoming traffic has a red light.

Flashing yellow arrow benefits

A flashing yellow arrow signal has the same meaning it always has: left turns may proceed with caution after yielding to oncoming traffic.

In the past, flashing yellow arrows in Minnesota were only used when the entire traffic signal was in flash-mode. Use of the flashing yellow arrow has been shown to have several benefits including minimizing delays and enhancing safety by reducing driver errors. Flashing yellow arrow signals have been approved for widespread use by the Federal Highway Administration..

Where will the flashing yellow arrow be used?

The majority of newly installed MnDOT traffic signals will have the flashing yellow arrow option. The flashing yellow arrow may be used at any intersection at any time but the most typical use will be at intersections and times-of-day that have lower volumes, lower speeds and other favorable conditions.



A better left-turn signal

Flashing yellow arrow signals have been shown to help drivers make fewer mistakes. They keep motorists safer during heavy traffic and reduce delays when traffic is light.