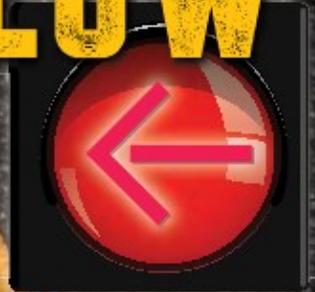


FLASHING YELLOW

LEFT TURN ARROW



City of Petaluma
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Flashing **YELLOW** Left Turn Signals

A Traffic Safety Evaluation study was initiated because right-of-way collisions at intersections surpassed speed collisions as the highest cause of collisions in Petaluma. Right-of-way collisions are defined as those accidents that are not related to speeding but are caused when a driver neglects to yield the right-of-way to another vehicle.

In an effort to reduce these types of collisions, the City of Petaluma will replace the solid green light protected/permissive signal with a flashing yellow arrow signal at 13 intersections.

This new signal configuration has been implemented successfully in other states and is beginning to be utilized in California. A study conducted by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program found that drivers made fewer mistakes with flashing yellow left turn arrows than with traditional yield-on-green signal configurations.



How to use a flashing yellow left-turn arrow

It's simple! Just remember that a flashing yellow left-turn arrow means, first yield to oncoming cars, bicycles and pedestrians, then turn left with caution.



Before entering the intersection, look left and look straight ahead. Ask yourself, is there any oncoming traffic? Are there any on-coming pedestrians or bicyclists?

Remember, on-coming cars, bicycles and pedestrians will have the right-of-way. Once you determine it is safe to do so, make your left turn. During the traffic cycle, you will see the flashing yellow left-turn arrow change to the better-known solid yellow left-turn arrow. The solid yellow left-turn arrow means what it has always meant: that the signal is about to turn red and you should prepare to stop.

The flashing yellow left-turn signal is in both the State of California's and the Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). These are standard for signs, signals, and pavement markings in California and the United States.

What You Will See and How It Works!



A solid red arrow means STOP. Drivers turning left must stop.



The solid yellow arrow indicates the signal will be changing to red and drivers should prepare to stop.



A flashing yellow arrow means turns are permitted, but you must first yield to oncoming cars, bicycles and pedestrians and then proceed with caution.



A solid green arrow means turn left. On-coming traffic has a red light and must stop. Do not go straight.