Use of HAWK Pedestrian Signals in Champaign

The City of Champaign received permission from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to install a HAWK Pedestrian signal at its first location.

In the fall of 2009, the first HAWK was installed for a crossing of Bradley Avenue between McKinley and Hedge.



What to do at a High Intensity Activated crossWalk Pedestrian Signal



Citizen Questions & Concerns

The City of Champaign takes its role in pedestrian and traffic safety very seriously. However, the ultimate burden rests with you --- motorists and pedestrians.

If you have any questions, requests or suggestions concerning traffic, contact the Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works (217) 403-4710 or visit *https://secure. ci.champaign.il.us/traffic_concerns*



Public Works Department 702 Edgebrook Drive Champaign, IL 61820 217.403.4700

www.ci.champaign.il.us CGTV-Cable Channel 5



Pedestrian safety

The City of Champaign places a high priority on pedestrian safety and is concerned about unprotected crossings of major streets.

In many cases, crossings do not meet the required conditions for the installation of a conventional traffic signal, so the City utilizes other safety methods such as pedestrian warnings signs and/or flashing yellow beacons.

Vehicles yielding to pedestrians

Illinois Law requires motorists to yield to pedestrians in a marked crosswalk. However, several studies have shown driver compliance rates for flashing beacons to be around 50%.

A new treatment, known as a HAWK Pedestrian Signal, which includes a red signal indicator, is now available and has shown to have up to a 97% driver compliance rate, comparable to a conventional traffic signal.

"HAWK" is an acronym for High Intensity Activated crossWalK and was originated in Tucson, Arizona. This hybrid pedestrian signal has since been safely and successfuly used throughout the United States. The signal is currently experimental and requires approval from FHWA but is expected to be adopted into standard traffic engineering manuals in the future.



How does a HAWK operate?

While slightly different in appearance, a HAWK signal operates much like a conventional signal in that it stops traffic flow.

What What Drivers See Pedestrians See



The HAWK remains **DARK** for traffic until a pedestrian activates the push-button. While the HAWK is DARK, traffic can continue through the signal without stopping.



When a pedestrian presses the button, approaching drivers see a **FLASHING YELLOW** signal for a few seconds, indicating that the signal has been activated.



The flashing yellow is followed by a **SOLID YELLOW** signal, indicating that motorists should reduce speed and be prepared to stop.

The solid yellow is followed by double **SOLID RED** signals, requiring drivers to stop.



Flashing

The double solid red signals are followed by alternating **FLASHING RED** signals. During this time, vehicles may continue through the signal after coming to a complete stop once pedestrians have finished crossing their half of the street. The signal will then go dark until activated again.

Flashing