



For Immediate Release; August 13, 2014
404.631.1814

Contact; Natalie Dale

Downtown Atlanta...

New Traffic Signals To Improve Memorial Drive Left Turn Movements

A new traffic signals designed to improve safety and increase traffic flow – especially for left-turn movements – is being installed today on Memorial Drive at its intersection with 2nd Avenue, according to the Georgia Department of Transportation.

The new signal is known as a Four-Section Flashing Yellow Arrow (FYA) traffic light that will provide an extended period of time for motorists to turn left after yielding to any oncoming traffic.

FYA signals are being deployed at intersections with historic heavy left-turning traffic volumes; several more are to be installed at other Memorial intersections in coming months. The new “flashing yellow arrow” component of the signals applies exclusively to drivers making left turns. The signal configuration will be a vertical display of four left turn arrows functioning as follows (displayed at the end of this release):

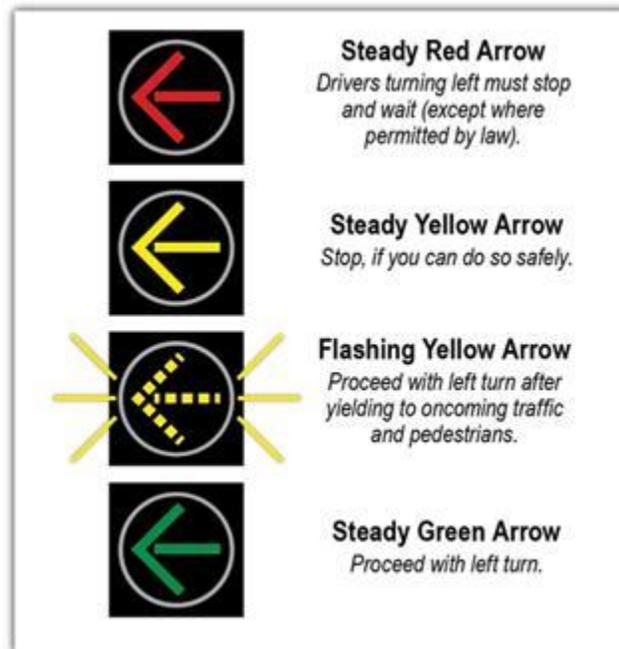
- When solid **Red** arrow is illuminated, no left turn is allowed;
- When solid **Yellow** arrow is displayed, drivers should prepare to stop as light is about to turn red;
- When flashing **Yellow** arrow is illuminated, drivers may turn left but must yield to pedestrians and oncoming vehicles; and
- When solid **Green** arrow is displayed, drivers may turn left.

Federal Highway Administration studies have shown these signals help reduce crashes of left-turning vehicles by as much as 35 percent. The FYA signal offers clearer guidance to drivers turning left and allows them more movement through the intersection when no pedestrians or oncoming traffic are present, thereby reducing back-ups, engine idling and auto emissions.

FYA signals now are Georgia DOT’s preferred left turn traffic signal for eligible locations – those with high numbers of left-turn movements and resultant traffic back-ups and related accidents. In addition to the Georgia DOT locations, cities and counties throughout the state can identify eligible locations and apply to the Department for permits for the new traffic signals.

During heavy traffic volume the traffic signal may skip the flashing yellow phase to increase safety at the intersection. It is important that drivers not try to anticipate what the traffic signal is about to do; just “drive and obey the signal.”

If the traffic signal has a malfunction the left turn will flash red. As with all signalized intersections, a flashing red is treated as a stop condition and flashing yellow is treated as proceed with caution. If all indications at an intersection are flashing red or the intersection is dark it should be treated as a four-way stop.



The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit www.dot.ga.gov or subscribe to our Press Release [RSS feed](#). You also may follow us on [Facebook](#) (<https://www.facebook.com/GDOTNE>) and [Twitter](#) (<https://twitter.com/GDOTNE>).

###