



**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **NEW TECHNOLOGY COMING TO ELBERTON TODAY**

### **New Georgia DOT Traffic Signal to Improve Safety & Expedite Left Turns**

**Elberton, GA** - New traffic signals designed to improve safety and increase traffic flow, especially for left-turn movements, are coming to Elberton today and eventually throughout the state. The new flashing yellow arrow will be operational today for State Route 72 traffic at its intersection with State Route 17 at the end of the ramps. Only the left turn lane from SR 72 to SR 17 west will get the new flashing yellow arrows.

“A review of the intersection showed traffic on State Route 72 is waiting too long - left turn arrows will enhance the traffic flow and its overall operation. The new flashing yellow arrows are installed. The flashing yellow arrow is operational now. It will improve the flow through the intersection by allowing left turners to move after yielding on yellow,” explained Brent Cook, Georgia DOT District Engineer.

This is the first flashing yellow arrow installed in Elbert County and the 12th flashing yellow arrow installed in Georgia DOT’s Northeast service area, known as District One.

The new traffic lights are called Four-Section Flashing Yellow Arrow (FYA) signals that will be deployed at intersections with historic heavy left-turning traffic volumes. The FYA signals will apply exclusively to drivers making left turns. The signal will be a vertical display of four left turn arrows functioning as follows (and displayed in the attachment):

- 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 also 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.

“We believe this will help drivers wanting to make a left turn better understand when they can do so freely, when they may proceed with their turn cautiously, and when they may not turn left,” Cook said. “Our primary purpose is to reduce the often-devastating angle crashes that result when a left-turning vehicle is struck by oncoming traffic.”

FYA will now be 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 will 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.”

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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](http://www.dot.ga.gov) or subscribe to our Press Release [RSS feed](#).*



**STEADY RED ARROW**

Stop and Wait

**STEADY YELLOW ARROW**

Prepare to Stop

**FLASHING YELLOW ARROW**

Yield to Pedestrians & On-Coming Traffic

**STEADY GREEN ARROW**

Proceed with Left Turn

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