



For Immediate Release:
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NEW TECHNOLOGY COMING TO SR 124

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

Jackson County, GA - New traffic signals designed to improve safety and increase traffic flow – especially for left-turn movements – are coming to Jackson County and eventually throughout the state. The new flashing yellow arrow will be for traffic on SR 124 eastbound traffic turning left onto Gum Springs Church Road. The new flashing yellow arrow will become operational by 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 8 if weather permits.

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.

This is the fourth flashing yellow arrow installed in Georgia DOT's Northeast service area, known as District One. Two are in Forsyth County and one is in Statham, Barrow County.

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,” Bayne Smith, District Engineer 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.”

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.

PRESS RELEASE

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The Quick Fix initiative delivers low-cost, high-yield projects that offer immediate benefit to communities and their citizens, such as adding turn lanes, widening roadways, intersection upgrades, etc.

Each year, families and college students flock to the coast between March and May to enjoy the warmth of the Georgia Springtime at the many beaches. With Spring Break upon us, please drive alertly and cautiously and be aware that many out-of-state spring break motorists will be among us on our roadways.

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>).

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