



**For Immediate Release:**

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**Contact:**

Jill Nagel 912.424.6643 Mobile



## Georgia Dot Enhancing Safety for Pedestrians in Chatham County with Initiative Technology

**Savannah, Ga.** – Georgia DOT announces the activation of the HAWK signal on SR 204 Spur/Whitefield Avenue in front of Hesse Elementary School on Wednesday, March 19. HAWK stands for **H**igh-intensity **A**ctivated cross **W**alk, a device that helps pedestrians safely cross roadways while minimizing traffic delays. This safety enhancement project is in conjunction with the 2.1 mile long widening project on State Route 204 Spur.

“Georgia DOT’s top priority is driver and pedestrian safety,” stated District Engineer Karon Ivery. “Although the HAWK Signal is very similar to the pedestrian’s view of a normal traffic signal, the motorists view will be quite different so, we urge drivers to use extreme caution until they become more familiar with this type of signal.”

The HAWK signal remains dark to keep traffic flowing until the pedestrian button has been pushed to activate the signal. The HAWK signal has several phases that drivers should be aware of: flashing yellow, indicating motorists should prepare to stop; solid yellow, indicating motorists must come to a stop; solid red, indicating motorists must not cross the stop bar; and toggle red (back and forth motion), meaning once you stop and the pedestrians have cleared you can proceed through the intersection. If you are the second motorist in line you should pull up to the stop bar and make sure the roadway is clear and the pedestrians have crossed before you proceed. A dark signal means proceed through the intersection.

HAWK crosswalks are effective and safe when used properly. Improving pedestrian safety via HAWK signals is contingent upon compliance by pedestrians and motorists. Georgia DOT wants to remind motorists that roadway safety should be everyone’s priority.

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