



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Transportation

Traffic Engineering and Operations

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To: Selected Cities, Counties, and Traffic Engineering Consultants in Oregon

File Code:

TRA 16-06-09-02

Subject: FHWA Interim Approval for the Flashing Yellow Arrow for Protected/Permissive Left Turns

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently issued an interim approval to all road authorities in the State of Oregon to utilize the Flashing Yellow Arrow (FYA) display for protected/permissive left turns. This interim approval allows local, county, and state jurisdictions to install the FYA per operational and design guidelines detailed in a memorandum from FHWA dated March 20, 2006 (enclosed). The interim approval eliminates the requirement to request approval from FHWA for the operation of the FYA as an experimental device.

Currently, over 40 intersections in Oregon are running the flashing yellow arrow display on one or more approaches. In addition to ODOT, the City of Beaverton, City of Bend, City of Oregon City, City of Albany, and Jackson County have installed the FYA display. While no research studies have issued findings of their safety record, ODOT has noted that fewer left-turn related crashes are occurring at ODOT intersections that were converted from five-section cluster heads to the flashing yellow arrow display. The FYA also offers key advantages over the five-section cluster head in terms of its flexibility to operate in a variety of modes (protected, protected-permissive, or permissive) during the day and to operate the protected portion of the phase in either lead or lag mode.

Requirements for installation

As a device not shown in the 2003 edition of the MUTCD, a FYA installed under this interim approval must meet the following requirements:

- The design and operation of the FYA must be in compliance with the guidelines set forth in FHWA's March 20th memorandum.
- ODOT is required to maintain a listing of the locations of all FYA's installed under the Interim Approval. Local jurisdictions are asked to notify ODOT when they install FYA's. Only the location and approach direction for the FYA are required for ODOT's record keeping responsibilities. Notification should be directed to:

Oregon Department of Transportation
Traffic Engineering Services Unit
Attn: Gary Obery
355 Capitol Street NE, 5th Floor
Salem, OR 97301

FYA Interim Approval Notice1.doc



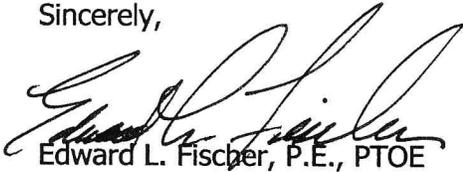
gary.r.obery@odot.state.or.us
503-986-3576

Jurisdictions wishing to use the flashing yellow arrow display in a manner that deviates from the technical provisions of the March 20th memorandum must request specific approval to do so directly to FHWA in Washington, D.C. under the normal experimental process. Unless part of a formal research project sponsored by NCHRP or a recognized research institute, ODOT will not endorse any deviations from the standard display and operational provisions of the March 20th memorandum.

For more information

The website of our Traffic Engineering and Operations Section contains more information related to the planning and design of Flashing Yellow Arrows (<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/TRAFFIC/publications.shtml>). Also, you may contact staff of the ODOT Traffic Engineering Services Unit at 503-986-3576 or 503-986-3568.

Sincerely,



Edward L. Fischer, P.E., PTOE
State Traffic Engineer

Enclosures:

- Flashing Yellow Arrow brochure
- Federal Highway Administration Letter of interim approval of Flashing Yellow Arrow for the state of Oregon
- Federal Highway Administration internal memorandum of Flashing Yellow Arrow approval

Cc: Nick Fortey, FHWA OR Division

GRO/awc