

FLASHING YELLOW ARROW

LEFT TURN DISPLAY

The City of Midland will be converting left turn indications at many traffic signals to a new Flashing Yellow Arrow (FYA) left turn display.

THE NEW FYA DISPLAY HAS FOUR TYPES OF ARROW INDICATIONS:

STEADY GREEN ARROW

The left turn movement is "protected", meaning that no conflicting movements are allowed. Proceed to turn with caution.



FLASHING YELLOW ARROW

Left turns are "permitted", meaning that oncoming traffic has a green and left turning vehicles may proceed cautiously, after yielding to oncoming vehicles and pedestrians.

This type of display has been required by the Federal Highway Administration for use nationally for certain types of new installations since 2009, and has been mandated under Texas' standards since the end of 2011. These standards were implemented based on extensive research and consideration by national experts because the FYA left turn display has multiple advantages over traditional left turn displays.



STEADY YELLOW ARROW

The signal is about to change to red. Prepare to stop or prepare to complete a turn if legally within the intersection and no conflicting traffic is present.



STEADY RED ARROW

Left turn traffic must stop and wait.



KEY ADVANTAGES

Extensive research and field-testing have shown that the Flashing Yellow Arrow (FYA) display reduces motorist confusion.

During the time when left turns are permitted, traditional displays would show a circular green ball indication. Since green is associated with “go” in the driver’s mind, some motorists have mistaken the circular green displayed solely over the left turn lane to mean that the left turn movement is protected and can proceed without yielding to oncoming traffic. The flashing yellow arrow more intuitively conveys the concept of caution and yielding to oncoming traffic than the circular green display.

During the time when the left turn is protected and the adjacent thru traffic is stopped, traditional displays would simultaneously show a circular red ball and green left arrow. This presents an inherent conflict in the minds of some motorists, causing hesitation or a lack of recognition that the protected state has started.

The FYA displays only one type of indication at a time. All indications are arrows, so the display is simpler and more clearly associated with the left turn movement.

The FYA display provides more options for operating the left turn movement as a leading or lagging display, and can be operated in permitted only, protected only, or a combination of protected and permitted modes as varying traffic conditions warrant. This allows for more efficient operation and reduced delays for left turners under some scenarios.

The new display provides the option to allow permitted left turns during situations when traffic would otherwise need to be kept stopped when using a traditional left turn display.

As the new standard for some conditions, the FYA display is now in use at numerous intersections throughout the country and is becoming increasingly common in many cities across Texas.

The first phase of FYA conversions will begin in September 2015 and will include signals along both Midland Drive and Andrews Highway. Other signals throughout the City will also be converted over the course of the following year, and any new traffic signals constructed by the City will also follow the FYA standard.

Any questions regarding FYA traffic signal operations can be directed to the City of Midland Transportation Division at 432-685-7280.

