

## How the flashing yellow left-turn arrows work



### Solid green arrow

Left turns have the right of way. Oncoming traffic has a red light. The green arrow may either precede or immediately follow the flashing yellow arrow, and may sometimes be skipped altogether depending on traffic volumes or time-of-day signal operations.



### Solid yellow arrow

The left-turn signal is about to change to red. Prepare to stop, or to complete your left turn if you are legally within the intersection and there is no conflicting traffic present.



### Flashing yellow arrow

Drivers are allowed to turn left after yielding to all oncoming traffic and to any pedestrians in the crosswalk. Oncoming traffic has a green light. Drivers must wait for a safe gap in oncoming traffic before turning.



### Solid red arrow

Drivers intending to turn left must stop and wait. Do not enter an intersection to turn when a solid red arrow is being displayed.

## A better left-turn signal



### Safer

A national study demonstrated that drivers had fewer crashes with the flashing yellow left-turn arrow than with the traditional yield-on-green signals.

### Less delay

You have more opportunities to make a left turn with the flashing yellow left-turn arrow than with the traditional signals.

### More flexible

The new display provides traffic engineers with more options to better handle variable traffic volumes.

### Wyoming Department of Transportation

5300 Bishop Blvd.

Cheyenne, WY 82009-3340

Phone: 307-777-4375

[www.dot.state.wy.us](http://www.dot.state.wy.us)



a **WY** DOT publication

Published by WYDOT's  
Public Affairs Office September 2011

# WYDOT Quick Facts YELLOW LEFT-TURN ARROWS



## Safer signals



The Wyoming Department of Transportation is implementing a new traffic signal display to provide a safer, more efficient left turn for motorists.

The flashing yellow left-turn arrow is a new display that replaces the circular green signal for left turns at selected intersections.

A flashing yellow arrow means a vehicle is allowed to cautiously enter the intersection only to make the turn indicated by the arrow, but must first YIELD to oncoming traffic and pedestrians and then proceed with caution when the way is clear.

The new flashing yellow arrow provides a more direct message than the circular green signal for turn lanes. It reduces confusion since the turn lane display is no longer the same as what is displayed for the adjacent through lanes.

## A national study confirms it's a better left-turn signal

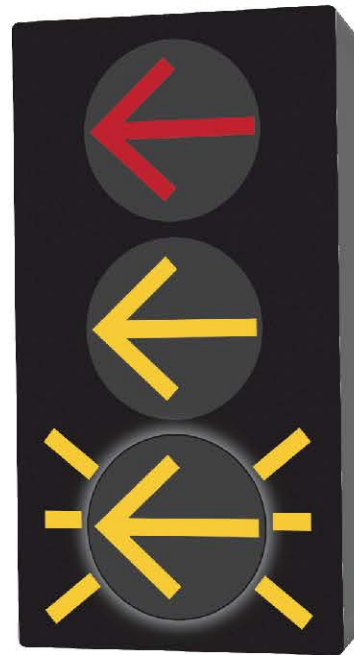
Several states are currently using this type of left-turn signal. WYDOT expects the new flashing yellow arrow display to become the standard signal display for left turns.

A national study conducted for the Federal Highway Administration demonstrated the new signal helps to prevent crashes, increases intersection capacity and provides additional traffic management flexibility.

### Variation of flashing yellow arrow

In some instances motorists may encounter a flashing yellow arrow in a three-section traffic signal as seen here.

The same guidelines apply; however, no green arrow will be present.



## Navigating the flashing yellow left-turn arrow

Drivers should yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. When it is safe, proceed with caution through the intersection.

After it flashes, the flashing yellow arrow then becomes a steady (non-flashing) yellow arrow or a green arrow. The steady yellow arrow warns drivers to stop for an impending red signal. Vehicles legally in the intersection should complete their left turn when opposing traffic does not conflict.



### Will the flashing yellow arrow be on all day?

An advantage of the flashing yellow turn display is that it gives traffic engineers the flexibility to use specific indications during different times of the day to better serve traffic demands.

This means the flashing yellow arrow or steady green arrow may not be seen every time you approach the intersection. This helps to reduce your wait.