

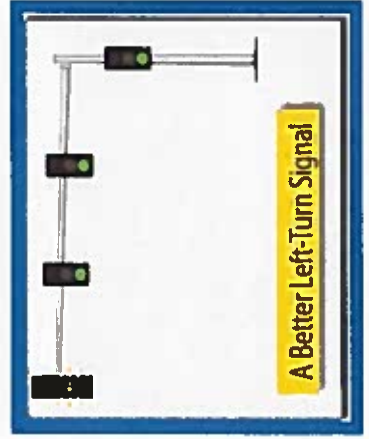
# The Flashing Yellow Arrow

- ◆ A new style traffic signal is being installed in Suffolk to control left turns and improve safety at intersections. New four-section signal heads with arrows will gradually replace the traditional five-section signal heads that had a combination of circular lights and arrows.

The City will begin phasing in these signal heads as construction and maintenance activities allows. The first location is anticipated to be Holland Rd. at Pioneer Rd. as a part of the construction of the new Elementary School.

## How does a flashing yellow arrow work?

- ◆ A flashing yellow arrow means left turns are allowed, but you must first yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians and then proceed with caution.



This is the change that drivers will see...

### Traditional



### Flashing Yellow Arrow



**Rather than a circular green, drivers will have a flashing yellow arrow to indicate that they can turn left after yielding to oncoming traffic.**

## Why is it a better left-turn signal?

The new signal heads with arrows will provide a more direct, less confusing message.

### ◆ Safer

A new national study demonstrated drivers had fewer crashes with the yellow left turn arrow than with the traditional yielding left-turn indication, because drivers perceive that any green signal means "go."

### ◆ More Flexible

The new display provides traffic engineers with more options to handle variable traffic volumes. It also provides more opportunities to safely turn left.

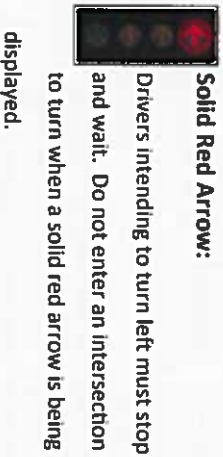
## What should motorists do when approaching a flashing yellow left-turn signal?

Left turning drivers entering the intersection must yield to oncoming traffic. When it is safe, make your left turn and proceed through the intersection. After it flashes, the flashing yellow left-turn arrow then changes to the steady (non-flashing) yellow left-turn arrow. Drivers should treat the steady yellow arrow just like a standard yellow light. Prepare to stop before the red light appears.

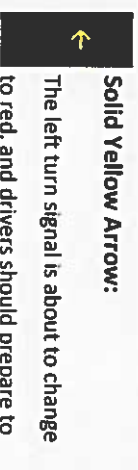
## Flashing Yellow Arrow Control

### How it works

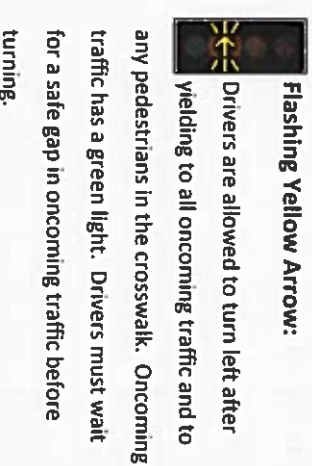
#### Solid Red Arrow:



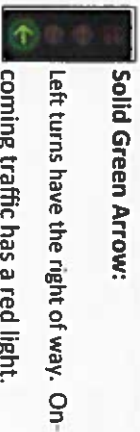
#### Solid Yellow Arrow:



#### Flashing Yellow Arrow:



#### Solid Green Arrow:



### How will the City decide where to install flashing yellow arrow signals?

The City will be designing Flashing Yellow Arrow control into most new traffic signals, except in places that do not need any separate left turn signals and in places where yielding left turns cannot be safely accommodated. For existing traffic signals, the City will be prioritizing locations for installation of Flashing Yellow Arrow control. Criteria for this prioritization will include traffic volume, lane configuration, and available sight distance. Converting existing traffic signals to use Flashing Yellow Arrow control requires a significant investment in new hardware and control equipment, and will therefore be subject to available funding and staff resources.

### Has this been tried before?

Absolutely! This system has been used in other parts of the country. Research also shows that drivers make fewer mistakes when flashing yellow arrow control is used. For more details on this research, please visit: [trb.org/publications/nchrp/nchrp\\_rpt\\_493.pdf](http://trb.org/publications/nchrp/nchrp_rpt_493.pdf) If you have questions, requests or suggestions concerning traffic, please call:

Department of Public Works

Traffic Engineering Division

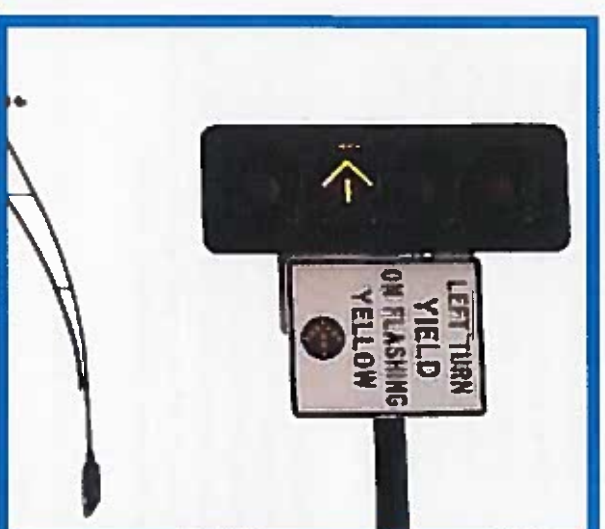
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[www.suffolkva.us/pub\\_wks/traffic/](http://www.suffolkva.us/pub_wks/traffic/)

## Flashing Yellow Arrows

What YOU should know!



City of Suffolk, Virginia

Department of Public Works

Traffic Engineering Division