Pedestrian-Activated Flashing Beacon

What is a pedestrian-activated flashing beacon?

- Pedestrian-activated flashing beacons are button-activated amber LED lights that use an irregular flashing pattern that is similar to emergency flashers on police vehicles. The device is unlit when not in use. People waiting to cross the street must push the button for the lights to activate.

- Lights alert people driving to the presence of a person in the crosswalk.

What are its purpose and benefits?

- People driving are more likely to yield to people crossing in a marked crosswalk coupled with a pedestrian-activated flashing beacon.\(^1\)

Where should this safety tool be applied?

- At marked crosswalks where driver speed, vehicle volume, and/or the number of lanes lead people driving to miss or ignore people crossing the street on foot.

- Locations may also be characterized by:
  - A crash history or observed conflicts between people driving and people crossing.\(^2\)
  - High volume of people crossing.\(^2\)

What else should I know about pedestrian-activated flashing beacons?

- Most effective when used with accessible curb ramps to the sidewalk, advance warning signs and pavement markings, and overhead street lighting.\(^2\)

- Not used in conjunction with any other traffic control device such as a stop or yield sign, traffic signal, or roundabout.\(^2\)

- Pedestrian-activated flashing beacons may look somewhat different from one another depending on the existing street design and infrastructure.

Notes: 1. Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB), Federal Highway Administration. 2. Unsignalized Intersection Improvement Guide: Install a Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon (RRFB), Institute of Transportation Engineers. 3. Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB), PEDSAFE.