



Pedestrian-Activated Flashing Beacon



LADOT

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.¹ 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.

Costs



Timeframe



Effectiveness



81%

YIELDING RATE

Pedestrian-activated flashing beacons have been shown to increase yielding behavior between 18% and 81%.¹

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.