What is a protected turn?

A dedicated left turn signal (AKA a left-turn arrow). It provides people turning left with an exclusive opportunity to turn while opposing traffic and pedestrians are stopped, resulting in a significant reduction in conflicts among people driving and walking.

What are its purpose and benefits?

- One of the most common conflicts at intersections with traffic signals is the competition between vehicles turning left and people walking in the crosswalk. Without a green arrow, people driving must yield to oncoming traffic, to make their left turn. When doing so, they typically focus on on-coming traffic to look for gaps and may not pay due attention to people walking in the crosswalk.\(^1\)

- It virtually eliminates crashes involving left-turning traffic for the affected intersection/direction.

Where should this safety tool be used?

- Where there are conflicts between left turning traffic, opposing traffic, and people walking.\(^2\)

- At intersections with limited sight distance - where people driving can't see oncoming traffic for a long enough period to judge if they'll have enough time to make the turn.\(^2\)

What else should I know about protected left turns?

- May result in increased waiting time at the signal for all directions and movements.\(^1\)

- Requires an existing left-turn pocket (aka left turn lane).