



Pedestrian crossing beacons — Pedestrian hybrid beacon (HAWK)

Definition

A pedestrian hybrid beacon (or High-intensity Activated crosswalk — HAWK) is a special type of hybrid beacon used to warn and control traffic at an unsignalized marked crossing location to assist pedestrians in crossing the roadway. HAWKs should include accessible pedestrian signals with a locator tone to inform visually impaired pedestrians that activation of the signal is required to cross the street and to indicate onset of the WALK interval.

Objective

The pedestrian hybrid beacon is intended to stop vehicular traffic when a pedestrian activates the signal and intends to cross. It provides a high-intensity protected pedestrian crossing at unsignalized intersections or mid-block locations with high traffic volumes.

Advantage

Higher compliance rate for drivers stopping for pedestrians.

Minimizes delay for vehicular traffic.

Encourages safer pedestrian crossing behaviors at mid-block locations and uncontrolled intersections.

Challenge

Drivers have a tendency to remain stopped when it is safe to proceed.

Dark (unactivated) signal display may be confusing to motorists, conveying, for example, a power outage.

Resources

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Guide—Recommendations and Case Study http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/tools_solve/fhwas14014/fhwas14014.pdf.

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/> (See Section 4F).

FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures: Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures/fhwa_sa_12_012.htm.

Safety Effectiveness of the HAWK Pedestrian Crossing Treatment <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/10042/10042.pdf>.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center—Webinar on HAWK signals http://www.walkinginfo.org/training/pbic/pedfocus_webinar_11-30-2011.cfm.

Drivers		Pedestrians	
... will see this	... will do this	... will see this	... will do this
	Proceed with Caution		Push the Button to Cross
	Slow Down (pPedestrian has activated the push button)		Wait
	Prepare to Stop		Continue to Wait
	STOP! (Pedestrian in Crosswalk)		Start Crossing
	STOP! Proceed with Caution if Clear		Continue Crossing (Countdown Signal)
	Proceed if Clear		Push the Button to Cross



Images (clockwise from main image):

Example of a pedestrian hybrid beacon at a crosswalk.
Source: Mike Cynecki, pedbikeimages.org.

Additional examples:
Sources: PedSafe; Mike Cynecki, pedbikeimages.org;
Sree Gajula, pedbikeimages.org; Pedsafe, Living Streets.