



Oregon Department of Transportation

Region 5: Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wheeler, Grant, Baker, Harney and Malheur Counties

INFO SHEET

RAPID FLASH BEACON

Rapid Flash Beacons and crosswalk upgrades in Irrigon U.S. Hwy. 730 / First Street intersection

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has installed curb extensions and crosswalk upgrades with rapid flash beacons in Irrigon at the intersection of First Street and the Columbia River Highway (U.S. 730). The pedestrian activated Rapid Flashing Beacon consists of a flashing light bar mounted on the crosswalk sign to help alert motorists that a pedestrian is crossing the street. Similar beacons installed throughout the state and across the country are helping reduce vehicle vs. pedestrian crashes.

ODOT and the City of Irrigon urge pedestrians and motorists to pay extra attention in the area as everyone becomes accustomed to this safety feature.

“Because the crosswalk flashing beacons are new to the area, we ask that pedestrians and drivers use extra caution and become familiar with their operations,” said ODOT Public Information Officer Tom Strandberg.



Typical beacon operation

How the new crosswalk flashing beacons operate:

- Pedestrian pushes the button on crossing sign when they are ready to cross the street.
- When activated, the beacon will begin flashing alternating yellow colored lights similar to the pace of a strobe light.
- When lights are flashing and/or when pedestrians are present at crosswalk, motorists need to stop ahead of the intersection.
- Once all vehicles are stopped the pedestrian can travel across the roadway.
- Vehicles are safe to travel once all pedestrians have passed through the lane they are using plus the adjacent lane, or have reached the sidewalk on the opposite side of street.



U.S 730 / 1st St. flashing beacon

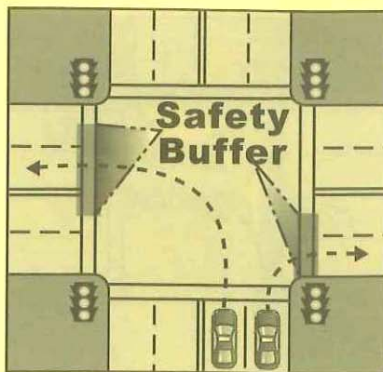
(More information on back, including Web link to short video demonstrating the Rapid Flash Beacon)

Successful operation of the crossing signal requires cooperation and understanding by both the pedestrian and drivers of motorized vehicles.

Pedestrians should make eye contact with drivers and ensure their vehicles have come to a complete stop before crossing the highway. It is very important that pedestrians understand that there are no laws in Oregon that require a vehicle to stop for a yellow flashing light.

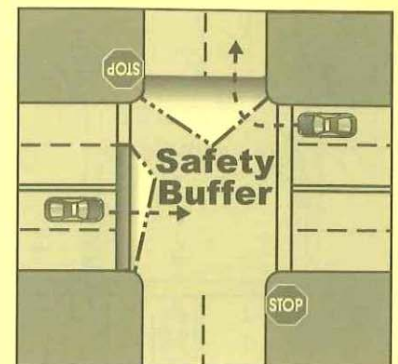
"Just because the light is activated, it is not safe to cross the highway until all vehicles are stopped," said Strandberg.

Oregon's Crosswalk Laws Have Changed



← Before turning at a crosswalk with a signal, it's **1 + 6**. Your lane plus six feet. Stop for the pedestrian, who must clear the lane into which the vehicle is turning **PLUS 6 feet** beyond that lane, before you proceed.

At any other crosswalk, it's **1 + 1**. Your lane plus the next lane. Stop for the pedestrian, who must clear the lane in which the vehicle is traveling or turning **PLUS the next lane**, before you proceed. →



Includes Rapid Flash Beacon crossings.

Fine = \$242; \$355 in School Zones

Drive Safely. The Way to Go. Transportation Safety – ODOT. 1-800-922-2022

STC #330531 Form #737-3451 (2-06)

The new flashing beacons are helping to improve crosswalk safety at numerous locations throughout the state. Drivers and pedestrians, however, need to continue to use caution and keep a close watch out for each other.



To view a short animated video showing how the Rapid Flash Beacons work, visit:
<http://tinyurl.com/RapidFlashBeaconVideo>

QR code to video



For more information: Interested parties can contact ODOT Region 5 Public Information Officer Tom Strandberg at (541) 963-1330, or by email at thomas.m.strandberg@odot.state.or.us