
601 TRAFFIC SIGNALS - DEFINITIONS

Listed below are the definitions of items related to Traffic Signal design and or systems:

Adjusted Right Turn Volume: A downward adjustment made to right-turning traffic volume, on any minor street approach, for the purposes of evaluating traffic signal warrants. The intent of this adjustment is to reduce a portion of the right-turning vehicular traffic that would not benefit from a traffic signal.

All-Red Clearance Interval - A short, steady, all-way red indication to permit the intersection to clear before cross traffic is released.

Approach Speed - The 85th percentile or posted speed that vehicles are traveling just prior to entering an intersection.

Emergency Vehicle Preemption (EVP) - A system designed to adjust traffic signal operations to give priority to approaching emergency vehicles.

Flashing Mode - The discontinuance of the normal signal displays which alternately assign right-of-way and the initiation of flashing displays for the various traffic movements, not including flashing amber arrow. Variations of signal display can be approved by the Regional Traffic Engineer.

Optical System - An emergency vehicle preemption (EVP) system that looks for a familiar optical stimuli, such as a flashing light, and reacts by providing an EVP input to the traffic signal controller upon verification of a valid flash pattern.

Phase Change Interval - Total time (in seconds) required for a vehicle to safely decelerate and come to a stop before entering the intersection or to clear the point of conflict before the conflicting traffic is released.

Rural Signal - A traffic signal located outside the built-up area of a community having a population of 10,000 or more persons, or a traffic signal located within a community having a population of less than 10,000 persons.

Special Access Approach - An intersection approach other than a State highway, City street, or County road.

Special Access Traffic Generator - A facility which generates the traffic on a special access approach to an intersection.

Special Access Traffic Signal - A traffic signal warranted on the basis of a traffic study on a State highway approach and on a special access approach to an intersection.

Traffic Signal Needs Study - A comprehensive traffic engineering study to determine if a traffic signal should be considered for installation at a particular location.

Urban Signal - A traffic signal located within the built-up area of a community having a population of 10,000 or more persons.

Vehicle Change Interval - A steady circular yellow signal or yellow arrow signal which warns traffic of an impending change in the right-of-way assignment.