

# HAWK Pedestrian-Friendly Beacon

## What is a HAWK Beacon?

A HAWK beacon or High-Intensity Activated crossWalk beacon is a traffic beacon used to stop road traffic and allow pedestrians to cross more safely. This beacon is pedestrian-activated and displays a series of yellow and red lights to stop traffic. HAWK was originally developed in Arizona and has since been successfully used throughout the United States to improve crossing situations for pedestrians.

## Why Are They Used?

More than 70 percent of pedestrian fatalities occur on middle-of-the-block locations. Vehicle travel speeds are usually higher at mid-block locations, contributing to the higher injury and fatality rates at these sites.

HAWK beacons provide full pedestrian control and are an option when there are not consistent high pedestrian traffic volumes which would warrant an automated full traffic signal. Also the alternating red lights allow vehicles to proceed once the pedestrian has cleared their side of the travel lane, thus improving vehicle traffic flow.

## How Does One Use It?

### Drivers:

- When the lights on the HAWK beacon remain continuously dark, drivers do not have to stop.
- Drivers only have to respond to the beacon when a yellow or red light is displayed. This indicates that a pedestrian is waiting to cross (yellow) or crossing (red).

### Pedestrians:

- When an orange hand icon is displayed, pedestrians must press the button to activate the beacon and wait.
- When the crossing person icon is shown, pedestrians should proceed with caution as they cross the road.
- There will be a countdown signal which alerts pedestrians of the allotted time left to complete the crossing and that traffic will start to move.

See page two for an illustrated guide on how a HAWK beacon operates for drivers and pedestrians.



## If You Have Questions

please contact  
Snohomish County  
Public Works via email at  
[transportation@snoco.org](mailto:transportation@snoco.org)  
or call (425) 388-3789.

## Additional Information

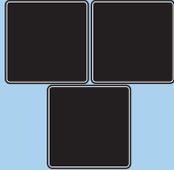
Learn more about the  
HAWK beacon and how it  
operates, view a video at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=7tyniC5DixE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tyniC5DixE)

## Americans with Disabilities Act Compliant

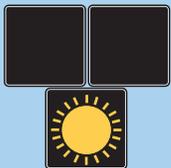
The HAWK beacon  
includes features that make  
it accessible to users with  
disabilities, in accordance  
with the Americans with  
Disabilities Act. These fea-  
tures consist of accessible  
curb ramps with detectable  
warning strips,  
audible locator tones,  
tactile features, and voice  
messaging. Snohomish  
County Public Works is  
committed to improving  
access to its facilities for  
all users.

# How Does a HAWK Beacon Work?

## Drivers

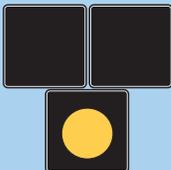


**Proceed with Caution**

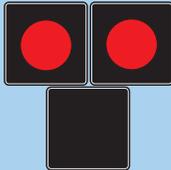


**Flashing**

**Slow Down**  
(Pedestrian has activated the push button)



**Prepare to Stop**

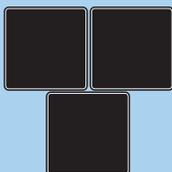


**Stop!**  
(Pedestrian in crosswalk)



**Flashing**

**Stop!**  
(Proceed with caution if clear)



**Proceed if Clear**

## Pedestrians



**Push the Button to Cross**



**Wait**



**Continue to Wait**



**Start Crossing**  
(Proceed with caution)



**Flashing**

**Continue Crossing**  
(Countdown signal)



**Push the Button to Cross**