

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons

Georgia State law requires motorists to yield to pedestrians when crossing at an intersection in a marked or unmarked crosswalk. Experience has shown that not all motorists obey the law. Signs and line striping have shown to have little effect on motorist yielding behavior. Traffic signals are effective but are very expensive and only warranted at intersections with high vehicular volumes and pedestrian usage.

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons, also referred to as an RRFB, were developed as a tool in an attempt to increase driver compliance for pedestrian attempting to cross multi-lane roads. From studies performed in St. Petersburg, Florida, driver yielding compliance increased from 18% to 81% with the installation of the RRFB system.



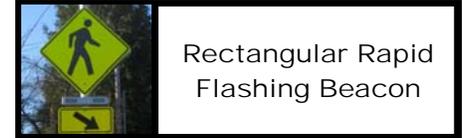
Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)



Requests and Inquiries

If you have questions, requests, or suggestions concerning traffic, please call the Department of Transportation at 770-445-4759 or at www.paulding.gov

**Paulding County
Department of Transportation
240 Constitution Boulevard
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Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon

A Pedestrian and Motorists Informational Guide for the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)



Paulding County
Department of Transportation

RRFB—Theory of Operation

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has issued interim approval for the use of a supplemental warning device called the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB).

The RRFB uses a rectangular shaped high intensity LED based light / indication bar that contains two (2) yellow LED indicators that flash in a rapidly alternating wig-wag “flickering” sequence (left light on, then right light on). The lights are installed below the pedestrian crosswalk sign (located on each side of the road near the crosswalk button) and above the supplemental downward diagonal arrow plaque.

The RRFB is activated by pedestrians by pushing a crosswalk button. The lights flash for a set time that allows a pedestrian adequate time to cross the street. At all other times the RRFB LED lights are dark.



RRFB—Potential Installations

Paulding County has received permission from the FHWA to install / use the RRFB as a traffic control device. Paulding County has purchased a RRFB system to install at a test location. Before installation studies and after installation studies will be conducted to determine the measurable safety impacts provided by the RRFB. While no traffic control device can provide complete protection, the County believes that the RRFB can offer safety benefits at certain locations if used properly, in conjunction with motorist and pedestrian awareness and compliance.



RRFB—Safety Benefits

Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons (RRFB) can enhance safety by reducing crashes between vehicles and pedestrians at unsignalized intersections and mid-block pedestrian crossings by increasing driver awareness of potential pedestrian conflicts.

Experimentation with RRFBs in various locations throughout the United States has found very high percentage rates of compliance of motorists yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks. Studies have shown compliance rates of 80% and higher for RRFBs compared to 20% or lower for standard signage / marking crosswalk treatments. The very high yielding rates are sustained even after 2 years in operation, and no identifiable negative effects have been found.

The RRFB offers significant potential safety and cost benefits, because it achieves very high rates of compliance at a very low relative cost in comparison to other more restrictive devices that provide comparable results, such as full midblock signalization or hybrid pedestrian beacons.

