



# Traffic Guidelines Manual

ORIGINATOR State Traffic Engineer	2-2-53
CHAPTER 2	Signing
SECTION 2	Regulatory Signs
SUBJECT 53	Signing for Flashing Yellow Arrow Traffic Signals

## A. Purpose and Background

The [2009 MUTCD](#) allows the usage of a flashing yellow left turn arrow that is intended to provide a safer, more efficient left turn for motorists. National studies have indicated that drivers have fewer crashes with the flashing yellow left-turn arrow than with the traditional yielding left-turn indication.

FHWA has indicated that flashing yellow arrow educational signing for motorists is normally not needed, since the obvious intent of the flashing yellow arrow is to yield to oncoming motorists. This is the reason why no signing for flashing yellow arrows is included in the MUTCD. However, since the flashing yellow arrow is new to Wisconsin, there has been concern expressed by WisDOT and other municipalities that the motorist will not realize that they need to turn with caution and potentially yield to oncoming motorists. Educational efforts involving the media have been utilized to address this concern. Another motorist education effort is the installation of temporary signing. This policy will address the installation of signing for flashing yellow arrow signals, both for a temporary “educational” effort and to address any problem areas.

## B. Qualifying Criteria for Signing

The LEFT TURN YIELD ON FLASHING YELLOW ARROW (R10-50 sign) has been designed for usage on WisDOT maintained roadways, provided the following policy criteria are met:

1. The LEFT TURN YIELD ON FLASHING YELLOW ARROW (R10-50 sign), at the discretion of the Region Traffic Engineer, may be used for all new flashing yellow arrow installations in problem areas or new areas, for a time period of one year from the date of the signal installation. After the one year time period, the signs should be removed and returned to the appropriate Region Sign Shop.
2. The LEFT TURN YIELD ON FLASHING YELLOW ARROW (R10-50 sign) *may* remain in place at intersections with flashing yellow arrow signal indications, for longer time periods or indefinitely. Reasons for allowing the sign(s) to remain in place may be demonstrated problems with motorists failing to yield on the

flashing yellow arrow indication or continued unfamiliarity of flashing yellow arrow signal in an area.

### C. Guidelines for Field Installation of Signs

1. Primary choice for mounting of the LEFT TURN YIELD ON FLASHING YELLOW ARROW (R10-50 sign) is the far side overhead signal that has a flashing left yellow arrow indication.
2. Secondary choice for mounting of the LEFT TURN YIELD ON FLASHING YELLOW ARROW (R10-50 sign) is the far side ground mounted signal that has a flashing left yellow arrow indication.
3. Third choice for mounting of the LEFT TURN YIELD ON FLASHING YELLOW ARROW (R10-50 sign) is the near side ground mounted signal that has a flashing left yellow arrow indication.