



Division of Transportation System Development  
Bureau of Traffic Operations  
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Scott Walker, Governor  
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May 7, 2018

Municipalities in Wisconsin

**Subject: Pedestrian-Actuated Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons at Uncontrolled, Marked Crosswalks (IA-21)**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has been approved for statewide use of Pedestrian-Actuated Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons at Uncontrolled, Marked Crosswalks under FHWA Interim Approval 21.

A Wisconsin jurisdiction wishing to install an RRFB is not required to submit an approval request to FHWA. Prior to initial installation of an RRFB under IA-21, the municipality shall notify the WisDOT at [DOTBTOSignOrders@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTBTOSignOrders@dot.wi.gov). Please verify acceptance of the MUTCD and IA-21 requirements in the email by inclusion of the following statement “*Municipality Name* will be implementing RRFBs under FHWA IA-21 and agrees to abide by all MUTCD and IA-21 requirements for the installation of RRFBs within the jurisdiction of *Municipality Name*.” Subsequent installations do not require WisDOT notification.

Please refer to the FHWA IA-21 memo for specific requirements for RRFB installations.  
[https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/interim\\_approval/ia21/index.htm](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/interim_approval/ia21/index.htm)

Please note these requirements for all interim approvals as detailed in section 1A.10 of the MUTCD:

1. Abide by the specific conditions for use of the device as contained in the FHWA's interim approval document.
2. Maintain and continually update a list of locations where the device has been installed.
3. Restore the site(s) of the interim approval to a condition that complies with the provisions in this Manual within 3 months following the issuance of a final rule on this traffic control device.
4. Terminate use of the device or application installed under the interim approval at any time that it determines significant safety concerns are directly or indirectly attributable to the device or application. The FHWA's Office of Transportation Operations has the right to terminate the interim approval at any time if there is an indication of safety concerns.

Each municipality will be required to “maintain and continually update a list of locations where the device has been installed.”

In addition to the general requirements in the MUTCD, there are specific requirements of IA-21 and some technical changes for RRFBs. The new flash requirements are detailed in the FHWA memo including a statement pertaining to flash patterns for existing RRFBs. The memo also details the required signs for RRFBs including the pedestrian sign, the “Push Button To Turn On Warning Lights (R10-25) sign shall be installed explaining the purpose and use of the pedestrian pushbutton detector.”

If you have any questions about the RRFB process in Wisconsin, please email WisDOT at [DOTBTOSignOrders@dot.wi.gov](mailto:DOTBTOSignOrders@dot.wi.gov)



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

APR 27 2018

In Reply Refer to:  
HOTO-1

William McNary, P.E.  
State Traffic Engineer  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
P.O. Box 7986  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

Dear Mr. McNary:

Thank you for your letter of March 30 requesting approval to use Pedestrian-Actuated Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) on a blanket basis at uncontrolled marked crosswalk locations statewide in Wisconsin. Your request is made under the provisions of Section 1A.10 of the 2009 edition of the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways* and the Federal Highway Administration's Interim Approval memorandum (IA-21) dated March 20, 2018 for the optional use of RRFBs.

Your request is approved. This approval is granted on a blanket basis for all locations in Wisconsin at which the Wisconsin DOT or local highway agencies install RRFBs under the technical conditions contained in IA-21.

Please develop and periodically update a list of all locations where RRFBs are installed in Wisconsin. Local jurisdictions that install RRFBs under this Interim Approval should inform your office of such installations so you can maintain a comprehensive list of locations.

For recordkeeping purposes, we have assigned your request the following number and title: "IA-21.31 –Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons at Crosswalks – Wisconsin DOT (Statewide)." Please refer to this number and title in any future correspondence.

Thank you for your interest in improving pedestrian safety. If we can be of further assistance on this matter, please contact Mr. Duane Thomas at [duane.thomas@dot.gov](mailto:duane.thomas@dot.gov).

Sincerely yours,

Mark R. Kehrli  
Director, Office of Transportation  
Operations