
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 purpose 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 - a mode of operation in which at least one traffic signal indication in each vehicular signal face of a highway traffic signal is turned on and off repetitively.

Optical System - An emergency vehicle preemption (EVP) system that looks for a familiar optical stimulus, 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 decelerate safely 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 people, or a traffic signal located within a community having a population of less than 10,000 people.

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 based on traffic volumes 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 people.

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.