

CHAPTER 4D. TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL FEATURES

Section 4D.01 General

Support:

The features of traffic control signals of interest to road users are the location, design, and meaning of the signal indications. Uniformity in the design features that affect the traffic to be controlled, as set forth in this Manual, is especially important for reasonably safe and efficient traffic operations.

Pavement markings (see Part 3) that clearly communicate the operational plan of an intersection to road users play an important role in the effective operation of traffic control signals. By designating the number of lanes, the use of each lane, the length of additional lanes on the approach to an intersection, and the proper stopping points, the engineer can design the signal phasing and timing to best match the goals of the operational plan.

Standard:

A traffic control signal shall control traffic only at the intersection or midblock location where the signal faces are placed.

STOP signs shall not be used in conjunction with any traffic control signal operation, except in either of the following cases:

- A. If the signal indication for an approach is a flashing red at all times; or**
- B. If a minor street or driveway is located within or adjacent to the area controlled by the traffic control signal, but does not require separate traffic signal control because an extremely low potential for conflict exists.**

When a traffic control signal is not in operation, such as before it is placed in service, during seasonal shutdowns, or when it is not desirable to operate the traffic control signal, the signal faces shall be covered, turned, or taken down to clearly indicate that the traffic control signal is not in operation.

Midblock crosswalks shall not be signalized if they are located within 90 m (300 ft) from the nearest traffic control signal, unless the proposed traffic control signal will not restrict the progressive movement of traffic.

Guidance:

Midblock crosswalks should not be signalized if they are located within 30 m (100 ft) from side streets or driveways that are controlled by STOP signs or YIELD signs.

Pavement markings should be used at traffic control signal locations as provided in Part 3. If the road surface will not retain pavement markings, signs should be installed to provide the needed road user information.

Engineering judgment should be used to determine the proper phasing and timing for a traffic control signal. Since traffic flows and patterns change, phasing and timing should be reevaluated regularly and updated if needed.

Section 4D.02 Responsibility for Operation and Maintenance

Guidance:

Prior to installing any traffic control signal, the responsibility for the maintenance of the signal and all of the appurtenances, hardware, software, and the timing plan(s) should be clearly established. The responsible agency should provide for the maintenance of the traffic control signal and all of its appurtenances in a competent manner.

To this end the agency should:

- A. Keep every controller assembly in effective operation in accordance with its predetermined timing schedule; check the operation of the controller assembly frequently enough to verify that it is operating in accordance with the predetermined timing schedule; and establish a policy to maintain a record of all timing changes and that only authorized persons are permitted to make timing changes;
- B. Clean the optical system of the signal sections and replace the light sources as frequently as experience proves necessary;
- C. Clean and service equipment and other appurtenances as frequently as experience proves necessary;
- D. Provide for alternate operation of the traffic control signal during a period of failure, using flashing mode or manual control, or manual traffic direction by proper authorities as might be required by traffic volumes or congestion, or by erecting other traffic control devices;
- E. Have properly skilled maintenance personnel available without undue delay for all emergency and lamp failure calls;
- F. Provide spare equipment to minimize the interruption of traffic control signal operation as a result of equipment failure;
- G. Provide for the availability of properly skilled maintenance personnel for the repair of all components; and
- H. Maintain the appearance of the signal displays and equipment.

Section 4D.03 Provisions for Pedestrians

Support:

Chapter 4E contains additional information regarding pedestrian signals.

Standard:

The design and operation of traffic control signals shall take into consideration the needs of pedestrian as well as vehicular traffic.

If engineering judgment indicates the need for provisions for a given pedestrian movement, signal faces conveniently visible to pedestrians shall be provided by pedestrian signal heads or a signal face for an adjacent vehicular movement.

Guidance:

Safety considerations should include the installation, where appropriate, of accessible pedestrian signals (see Sections 4E.06 and 4E.09) that provide information in nonvisual format (such as audible tones, verbal messages, and/or vibrating surfaces).

Where pedestrian movements regularly occur, pedestrians should be provided with sufficient time to cross the roadway by adjusting the traffic control signal operation and timing to provide sufficient crossing time every cycle or by providing pedestrian detectors.

Option:

If it is desirable to prohibit certain pedestrian movements at a traffic control signal, a PEDESTRIANS PROHIBITED (R9-3) or No Pedestrian Crossing (R9-3a) sign may be used (see Section 2B.44).

Section 4D.04 Meaning of Vehicular Signal Indications

Support:

The "Ohio Revised Code" is the primary source for the standards for the meaning of vehicular signal indications to both vehicle operators and pedestrians as set forth below, and the standards for the meaning of separate pedestrian signal indications as set forth in Section 4E.02.

Standard:

As specified in 4511.13 and 4511.15 of the Ohio Revised Code, the following meanings shall be given to highway traffic signal indications, except those for Pedestrian Signals (see Section 4E.01) and Lane-Use Control Signals (see Section 4J.02):

OMUTCD - English units are preferred.

