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Issue 25: Finding an RRFB Alternative



FHWA Puts the Brakes on RRFBs

Due to an ongoing patent dispute, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) rescinded its approval of **new** installations of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) as of December 21, 2017.

Keep in mind that the FHWA decision is unrelated to the proven safety benefits of

RRFBs.

What does this mean ...

FHWA indicated that, “Installed RRFBs may remain in service until the end of useful life of those devices and need not be removed.”

For Installed RRFBs?

However, if and/or when existing installed RRFB devices are damaged and require replacement, an alternative treatment or treatments, possibly from the list below, should be installed in its place.

For RRFBs Out to Bid?

For jurisdictions with projects out to bid that include RRFBs, consider a bid addendum to remove RRFB installation and substitute an alternative treatment or suite of treatments from the list below.

But I Can't Change It!

If you have a project awarded before December 21, 2017 that incorporates an RRFB and you believe a change order is not reasonable, contact a local [ODOT District Safety Engineer](#), who will work with the FHWA on possible approval.

RRFB Alternatives

FHWA research has found that these Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) treatments increase motorists’ yielding to pedestrians:

1. [Flashing LED beacons](#)
2. [LED enhanced crossing signs](#)
3. [Advance stop or yield lines](#)
4. [Street lighting](#)
5. [Raised crosswalks](#)
6. R1-6 STOP (or YIELD) TO PEDESTRIANS signs [deployed in a gateway configuration](#)
7. [Pedestrian hybrid beacons](#) or traffic signals

Learn More

- FHWA is updating its [list of Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on RRFB alternatives](#) as more information becomes available.

Questions? Feedback?

Drop us a line, bikeohio@dot.ohio.gov



2017 DEATHS IN OHIO



18
BICYCLE



143
PEDESTRIAN

2016 DEATHS IN OHIO

18 BICYCLE

140 PEDESTRIAN



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