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Flashing Yellow Arrow Signals being installed across North Dakota

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is in the process of replacing a number of traffic signals to the new “flashing yellow arrow” left turn signals. The new flashing yellow arrow replaces the green ball over left turn lanes.

Motorists will be seeing more of the flashing yellow arrow turn signal across the state and should be prepared to navigate through the intersections. The steady green arrow means left turning drivers have the right of way. The flashing yellow arrow means left turns are permitted, but you must use caution and yield to pedestrians and oncoming traffic. When the flashing yellow arrow ends, the steady yellow arrow begins, meaning the left turn signal is about to change to red and drivers should prepare to stop or complete their left turn if they are in the intersection. A steady red arrow means left turning drivers must stop.

Flashing yellow arrow left turn signals have been shown to be safer, more efficient, and more flexible than traditional signals. Other reasons for the change include:

- **Safety:** A national study showed drivers made fewer mistakes with flashing yellow arrow indications than with the existing green ball indications.
- **Efficiency:** Green left turn arrows can be used either before or after through traffic has a green ball. This improves signal timing progression and traffic flow in signalized corridors.
- **Flexibility:** Left turn signal operations can now change during the day to better respond to fluctuations in traffic volumes.

For example, during rush hour if there are few gaps in oncoming traffic, the signals can be more restrictive and only allow left turns on a green arrow. When rush hour is over and there are more gaps in oncoming traffic, the signals can then be less restrictive and allow left turns on green arrows and/or flashing yellow arrows.

- **Federal Rules:** For new traffic signals, green ball indications are no longer allowed over left turn lanes.

The green ball will continue to be used at locations where permissive left turns are allowed where this is no dedicated left turn lane.

For more information on flashing yellow arrow left turn signals in North Dakota, please go to <https://www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/programming/flashing-yellow-arrow.htm>