

Flashing Yellow Arrow: Background and MassDOT Implementation Plan

13 FEBRUARY 2015

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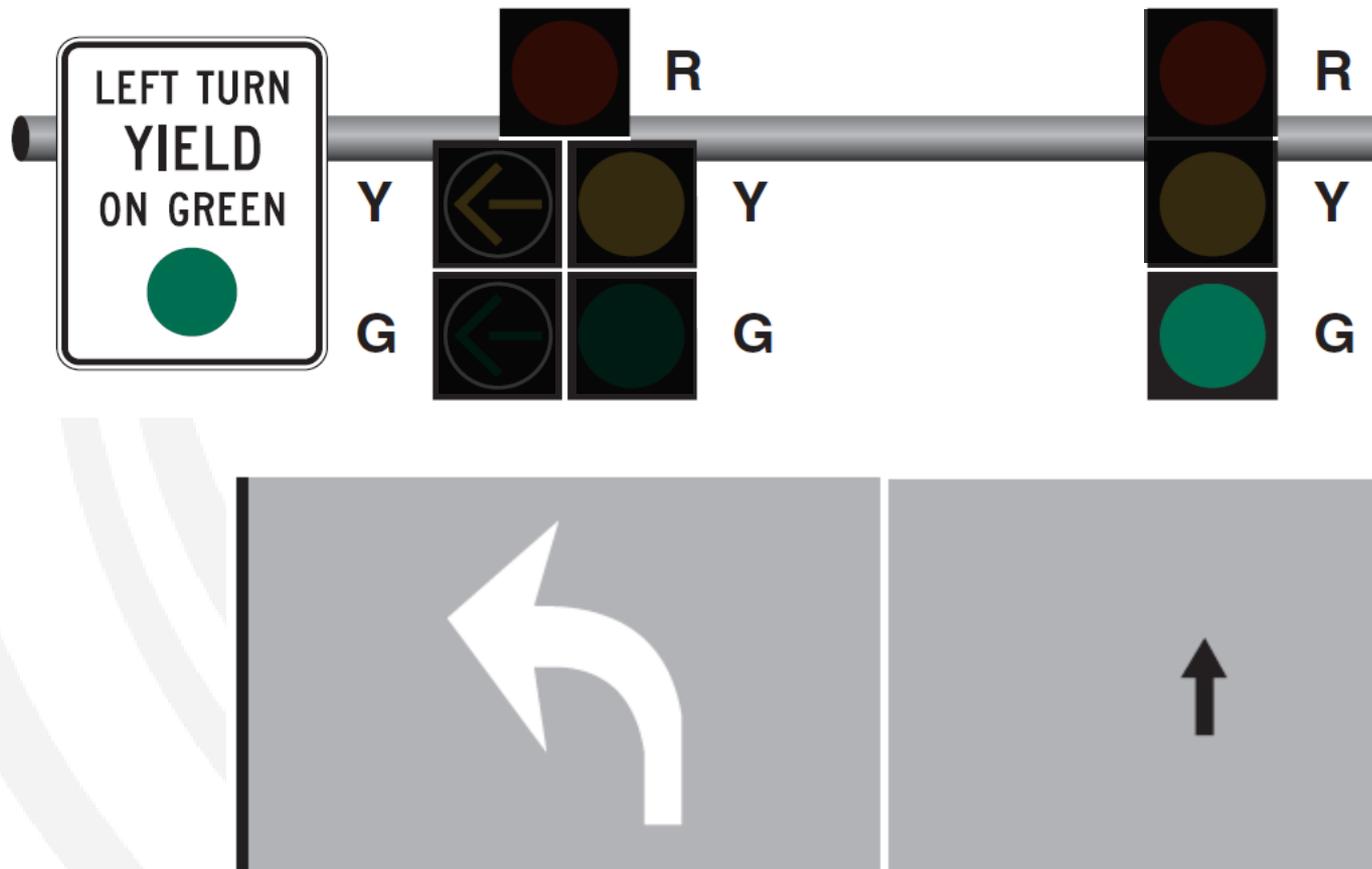
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FLASHING YELLOW ARROW (FYA): PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- + What is the FYA?
- + Why the change to the FYA?
- + Where and when will the FYA installed? (MassDOT project update)
- + How can you learn more?

PROTECTED/PERMISSIVE LEFT-TURN PHASING (PPLT)



WHAT IS THE FLASHING YELLOW ARROW?

NEW INDICATION TO REPLACES THE GREEN BALL IN A PPLT DISPLAY

Traditional



New



STEADY RED ARROW

You must stop

STEADY YELLOW ARROW

Red light is coming - you must stop if it is safe

FLASHING YELLOW ARROW

You may turn left if there is safe gap in oncoming traffic and no pedestrians in your path

STEADY GREEN ARROW

Proceed with left turn – pedestrians and opposing traffic will have a red indication

FLASHING YELLOW ARROW IN ACTION

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IW8oVOOTApk>

WHY THE FLASHING YELLOW ARROW?



Area Used	Lens Color and Arrangement	Left-Turn Indication	
		Protected Mode	Permitted Mode
Maryland			
Washington State			
NO LONGER IN OPERATION			
Delaware			
Cupertino, CA			
Michigan			
Seattle, WA			
* Green or Yellow Bi-Modal Lens			
Sparks, NV			
Reno, NV			

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- + Reduce driver confusion - reduce “fail critical decisions”
- + Improve safety
- + Improve uniformity
- + Decision to use the FYA is based on extensive research and field studies

Image courtesy of: NCHRP Report 493: Evaluation of Traffic Signal Displays for Protected/Permissive Left-Turn Control

MASSDOT RETROFIT PROJECT

- + Systematic retrofit – conversion of all eligible traffic signals on State Highway that operate with PPLT phasing
- + 350 signals in more that 140 towns
- + Expected timeframe: 2015-2017

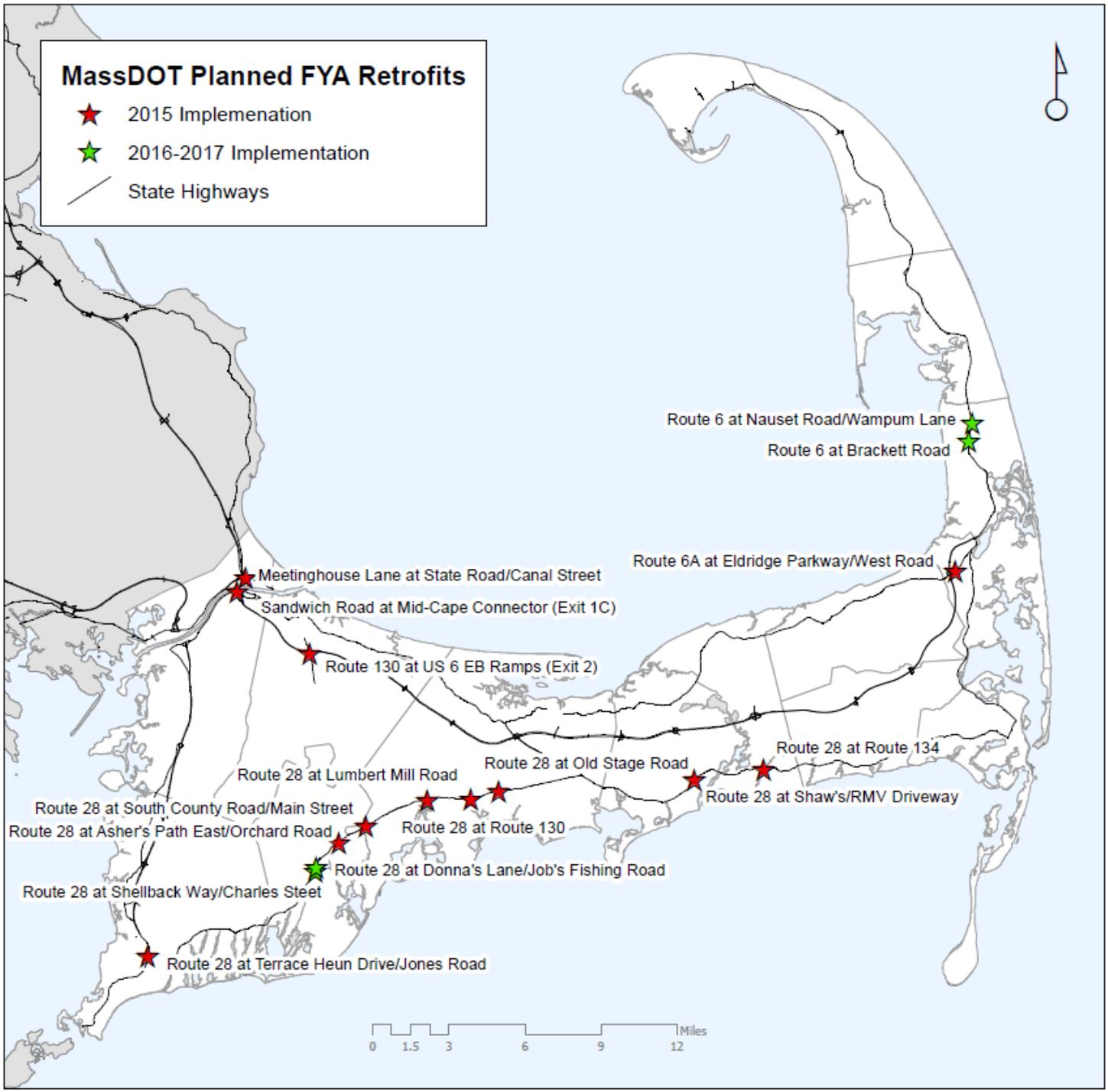


More information available at:

<http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/highway/Departments/TrafficandSafetyEngineering/TrafficSignals/FlashingYellowArrow.aspx>

MassDOT Planned FYA Retrofits

- ★ 2015 Implementation
- ★ 2016-2017 Implementation
- State Highways



FLASHING YELLOW ARROW MYTH

Oregon traffic study: Widespread use of flashing yellow arrows poses risks to pedestrians (video)



A motorist prepares to turn at a flashing yellow arrow from the Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway to onto Southwest Watson Avenue in Beaverton. (Thomas Boyd/The Oregonian)



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on April 25, 2013 at 7:25 PM, updated April 26, 2013 at 2:22 PM

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The Flashing Yellow Turn Signal: Good for Drivers, Bad for Pedestrians

Drivers focus so much on oncoming cars that they fail to notice walkers.

ERIC JAFFE | [@e_jaffe](#) | May 1, 2013 | [6 Comments](#)

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+ With proper timing, the flashing yellow arrow presents no greater risks to pedestrians than other PPLT displays

THANK YOU

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