



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **~ MEDIA ADVISORY ~**

### **Flashing Yellow Left-Turn Arrows Now Installed at Three Springfield Intersections**

Beginning today, traffic signals at the intersections of 5<sup>th</sup> and Q Streets, Mill and Centennial Streets and 28<sup>th</sup> and Marcola Road in Springfield will feature flashing yellow left-turn arrows. The flashing yellow arrow will be placed between the green left-turn arrows and steady yellow arrow. This will permit drivers to turn left during the flashing yellow indication and when oncoming traffic is clear.

The change is expected to allow more vehicles to make the turns and alleviate congestion in these intersections. However, the most important improvement is safety related. Data shows that the flashing yellow arrow is a safer way to make a turn across oncoming traffic when compared to a green ball. Drivers tend to naturally think “green means go” and traffic making a left turn on a circular solid green light sometimes does not yield to oncoming traffic, which can result in more crashes.

“The flashing yellow arrow allows left turns and at the same time communicates the “caution” message to drivers. The flashing yellow left-turn arrow is especially effective at intersections with high volumes of traffic,” said Springfield Traffic Operations EIT Richard Perry.

The rules for using the new yellow turn signals are simple: be cautious and after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians, make your left turn. After it flashes, the flashing yellow left-turn arrow then becomes the better-known steady yellow left-turn arrow. The steady yellow left-turn arrow means what it has always meant: stop, if you can do so safely

**What:** Flashing Yellow Signals in Springfield

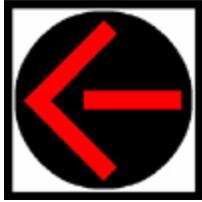
**Where:** Signals are installed at the intersections of 5<sup>th</sup> and Q Streets, Mill and Centennial Streets and 28<sup>th</sup> Street and Marcola Road.

**Media:** Staff will be available for interviews and to provide additional information.

**Background:**

In Oregon, flashing yellow left-turn arrows are becoming more and more common. Currently, there are several flashing yellow left-turn arrows in the west side Portland Metro area, in Woodburn, in Bend, in Eugene and throughout Jackson County in Southern Oregon. Based on national research, the flashing

yellow arrow is expected to improve intersection safety in certain locations. (Graphic provided by ODOT)



A solid red arrow means STOP. Drivers turning left must stop.



A solid yellow arrow means stop if it is safe to do so.



A flashing yellow arrow means turns are permitted, but you must first yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians and then proceed with caution.



A solid green arrow means turn left. Oncoming traffic must stop. Do not go straight