



Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons

SAFETY BENEFITS:

55%

Reduction in pedestrian crashes

29%

Reduction in total crashes

15%

Reduction in serious injury and fatal crashes



Pedestrians cross the roadway at a PHB location.

Source: City of Tuscon, Arizona

The pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) is a traffic control device designed to help pedestrians safely cross busy or higher-speed roadways at midblock crossings and uncontrolled intersections. The beacon head consists of two red lenses above a single yellow lens. The lenses remain “dark” until a pedestrian desiring to cross the street pushes the call button to activate the beacon. The signal then initiates a yellow to red lighting sequence consisting of steady and flashing lights that directs motorists to slow and come to a stop. The pedestrian signal then flashes a WALK display to the pedestrian. Once the pedestrian has safely crossed, the hybrid beacon again goes dark.



Example of PHBs mounted on a mast arm.

Source: FHWA

More than 75 percent of pedestrian fatalities occur at non-intersection locations, and vehicle speeds are often a major contributing factor.¹ As a safety strategy to address this pedestrian crash risk, the PHB is an intermediate option between a flashing beacon and a full pedestrian signal because it assigns right of way and provides positive stop control. It also allows motorists to proceed once the pedestrian has cleared their side of the travel lane, reducing vehicle delay.



Data from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, Impact Speed and a Pedestrian's Risk of Severe Injury or Death, September 2011.

Transportation agencies should refer to the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* for information on the application of PHBs. In general, PHBs are typically used when gaps in traffic are not large enough or vehicle speeds are too high for pedestrians to cross safely. PHBs are not widely implemented, so agencies should consider an education and outreach effort when implementing a PHB within a community.

Source: CMF Clearinghouse, CMF IDs: 2911, 2917, 2922.

¹ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, *Traffic Safety Facts - 2015 Data - Pedestrians*. Report DOT HS 812 375, (Washington, DC: 2017).