

How does a HAWK Beacon Operate

The City of Dodge City considers pedestrian safety to be very important. Pedestrian safety at unsignalized crosswalks is a concern. While various treatments exist at unsignalized crossings, there is a growing concern that they are not effective.

Pedestrian Safety

Despite most states having a law that requires motorists to yield to pedestrians in a marked crosswalk, a 2002 Federal Highway Administration study found that some marked crosswalks had higher crash rates than unmarked crosswalks. However, studies have also shown that a RED signal or beacon had compliance rates greater than 95 percent.



HOW DOES A HAWK BEACON OPERATE

The beacon remains dark for motorists until activated by a pedestrian push button. After activation,



the motorists will see the yellow light “flash” for a few seconds, followed by a steady yellow for a few seconds and then by a double solid RED, requiring them to STOP at the stop line. At this time, the pedestrian receives a WALK indication. At the end of the WALK indication, the pedestrian is displayed a FLASHING DON’T WALK indication, and the motorist sees an ALTERNATING FLASHING RED. During this period, the motorists are required to STOP or remain stopped until pedestrians have finished crossing the street, and then may proceed.

To view how the “HAWK” Beacon operates, a short video can be seen on YouTube at the following link; www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEPIHLoXpTs.from Peoria, AZ.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF A HAWK BEACON?

Studies have shown a better compliance rate by motorists with a HAWK Beacon than other devices at pedestrian crossings. A HAWK Beacon can also reduce motorist delay since vehicles may proceed during the Alternating Flashing Red period after stopping if pedestrians have finished crossing the street. At other signalized crossings, the motorist must stay stopped during the entire sequence, even if the pedestrian has finished crossing the street.

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