

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Statewide Design & Engineering Services Division

TO: Distribution

DATE: November 5, 2012

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FROM: Roger Healy, P.E.
Chief Engineer



SUBJECT: Chief Engineer's
Directive- Rectangular
Rapid Flashing Beacons

Effective immediately, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) are permissible at existing marked and signed uncontrolled pedestrian and school crosswalk locations, where:

1. The crosswalk is installed in accordance with Table 3B-101 of the Alaska Traffic Manual Supplement;
2. There are more than two lanes;
3. The posted speed is 40 mph or greater;
4. The nearest controlled crossing location is more than 300 feet away;
5. The yield-to-pedestrian compliance is low where existing pedestrian crossing or school crossing signs and pavement markings are installed, and;
6. The regional traffic and safety engineer (RTSE) determines adjacent signal operations will not be negatively impacted.

The RTSE may allow RRFB installations at other locations where the RTSE determines unsatisfactory site-specific conditions exist, such as:

- Pedestrian accident history;
- High occurrence of avoidance maneuvers by motorists or pedestrians, or;
- School crossings on a rural NHS route.

Do not use RRFBs at signalized, stop or yield controlled approaches.

RRFBs are warning beacons. RRFBs are not signals and do not establish a regulatory requirement for yield or stop control for motorists. Consider other crosswalk enhancements prior to installation of RRFBs.

Install pushbutton detectors and R10-25 signs, or passive detection, for each crossing direction and on the median if pedestrians cross in two stages using a refuge island.

Guidance on installing RRFBs is expected to be included in the next edition of the MUTCD. Until then, use this directive and the following FHWA guidance:

- *Interim Approval for Optional Use of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (IA-11) 7/16/2008*, and FHWA official interpretations *4(09)-17(I)-RRFB Light Intensity*, *4(09)-21(I)-Clarification of RRFB Flashing Pattern*, *4(09)-22(I)-Flashing Pattern for Existing RRFBs*, and *4(09)-24 (I) on Dimming of RRFBs during Daytime Hours*, and;
- FHWA official interpretations *4-376(I)-RRFB Overhead Mounting* and *4 (09)-5 (I)-RRFB Use with W11-15 Sign* may only be applied to RRFB installations if approved in writing by the RTSE.

Where a conflict exists, comply with the more restrictive requirement. Comply with FHWA interpretations relating to RRFBs issued after the date of this directive.

Notify the State Traffic and Safety Engineer following RRFB installation with the following information: device location, date installed, and official interpretations applied.

FHWA's interim guidance may be found at:

http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/interim_approval/ial11/fhwamemo.htm

http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/interpretations/4_09_17.htm

http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/interpretations/4_09_21.htm

http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/interpretations/4_09_22.htm

http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/interpretations/4_09_24.htm

http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/interpretations/4_376.htm

http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/interpretations/4_09_5.htm

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