

High Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK)

A HAWK is a pedestrian activated signal located on the roadside and on mast arms over major approaches to an intersection. It displays a red light to drivers when activated, which creates a gap for pedestrians to use to cross the roadway.

The signal lights are not illuminated until they are activated by a pedestrian. When activated, the HAWK triggers a warning flashing yellow light to drivers which then changes to a solid yellow, preparing drivers to stop. The signal then changes to a solid red light and gives pedestrians a walk symbol. At the end of the walk phase, the signal flashes red to drivers and gives an upraised hand symbol to pedestrians with a countdown informing them of time left to cross.

A study that compared HAWK crossings to un-signalized pedestrian crossings done by the Federal Highway Administration found a 29% reduction in total crashes, a 15% reduction in severe crashes and a 69% reduction in pedestrian crashes.

