

## BENEFITS OF PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON SIGNALS

There are several main benefits of Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) signals:

- PHB signals have been shown to increase safety by reducing crash rates at pedestrian crossings.
- PHB signals cause a decrease in dangerous driver violations at pedestrian crossings.
- With a typical “Red/Yellow/Green” pedestrian crossing signal, there can be a tendency for the signal to “blend in” to the background. However, PHB signals eliminate this concern, since they only turn on when a pedestrian wishes to cross the street.
- PHB signals can eliminate driver delay and frustration, as they allow drivers to proceed through the crossing once it is clear of pedestrians (rather than having to wait for a green light).



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For additional information on Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon signals, or for a copy of this brochure in electronic format, visit the Traffic Engineering Division website at <http://bit.ly/NVSKMV>

-or-

<http://cityofomaha.org/>  
Keyword Search: PHB



## Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Signal



City of Omaha  
Public Works  
Department -  
Traffic  
Engineering



## User's Guide

## WHAT IS A PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON SIGNAL?

A Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) signal is a type of traffic signal which creates a safer and more efficient environment for pedestrians to cross busy streets. PHB signals replace traditional “Red/Yellow/Green” pedestrian crossing signals. PHB signals are in line with Federal standards and have been around since the late 1990s; in fact, they are already in use in many cities around the country.

The first PHB signal to be installed in Omaha will be on 50th Street between “G” Street and “I” Street, where the new South Omaha trail crosses 50th Street. Trail users will be able to cross 50th Street by using the PHB signal, which will help alert drivers to their presence and provide for a safe and efficient crossing. PHB signals will continue to be considered at other locations around the City.



## HOW PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON SIGNALS WORK

	DRIVERS 		PEDESTRIANS 	
	Will See...	Will Do...	Will See...	Will Do...
1		Proceed with caution.		Push the button to activate the system.
2	 FLASHING	Slow down, prepare to stop. A pedestrian has activated the system.		Wait.
3		Stop if it is safe to do so.		Continue to wait.
4	 <b>STOP.</b> A pedestrian is in the crosswalk.			Start crossing when all vehicles are stopped.
5	 FLASHING	<b>STOP.</b> Proceed with caution if the crosswalk is clear.		Continue crossing; the signal will count down.
6		Proceed with caution.		Push the button to activate the system.

## WHAT TO DO AS A DRIVER

When approaching a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) signal in a vehicle, the signals will be dark when not in use. However, if the yellow light begins flashing, then begin to slow down and prepare to stop. When the yellow light changes to a steady indication, stop if it is safe to do so. Once the PHB signal changes from steady yellow to two solid red indications, stop and remain stopped. When the two red lights begin an alternating flash pattern, stop or remain stopped until pedestrians have finished crossing the street. If the crosswalk is clear while the two red signals are still in the alternating flash pattern, then drivers may proceed with caution. The signal will then return to its unlit condition when not in use by pedestrians.

## WHAT TO DO AS A PEDESTRIAN

As a pedestrian wishing to use a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) signal, use the signal as you would a normal traffic signal. Push the button on the signal and watch the pedestrian signal head across the street. When it changes from a Don't Walk symbol (orange solid hand) to a Walk symbol (walking person), begin crossing the street in the crosswalk. When the Walk symbol changes to a Flashing Don't Walk with Countdown Timer, continue crossing if you are already in the crosswalk, but do not begin crossing if you have not already done so.

