

WHAT IS RCOC?

The Road Commission for Oakland County maintains Michigan's largest county road system, with more than 2,700 miles of roads (including 750-plus miles of gravel roads). Only the state highway system is larger.

RCOC also maintains:

- ◆ Approximately 90 bridges,
- ◆ Approximately 1,500 traffic signals,
- ◆ Approximately 150,000 traffic signs and
- ◆ More than 230 miles of state highway.

SAFETY FIRST

As a matter of policy, major road improvement projects are conducted by the Road Commission based on a safety ranking system. At RCOC "Safety First" is more than a motto.



RCOC:

- ✓ Is separate from county general government and receives no direct revenue from property taxes
- ✓ Receives the majority of its funding from the state-collected gas tax & vehicle-registration fee
- ✓ Has congested roads due to decades of tremendous growth in the county
- ✓ Receives no direct revenue from growth and development
- ✓ Pays at least \$3 million to pave a mile of gravel road
- ✓ Pays approx. \$8 million to widen one mile of road from two lanes to five
- ✓ Is located in a state that ranks in the bottom 10 states in per capita road funding

ROAD COMMISSION
for OAKLAND COUNTY
31001 Lahser Road · Beverly Hills · MI 48025

BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS

RONALD J. FOWKES

ANDREA LALONDE

NANCY QUARLES

Dennis G. Kolar, PE

Managing Director

Gary Piotrowicz, PE, PTOE

*Deputy Managing Director/
County Highway Engineer*

RCOC MISSION STATEMENT

RCOC strives to provide the public with leadership in:

- Safe and convenient roads
- Sound financial management
- Responsive and dependable service
- Respect for the environment
- Sensitivity to community concerns

HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE ROAD COMMISSION?

CALL OR WRITE:

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
2420 PONTIAC LAKE ROAD
WATERFORD, MI 48328

TOLL-FREE: (877) 858-4804

TDD: (248) 858-8005

OR, visit RCOC online at

www.rcocweb.org

ROAD COMMISSION
for OAKLAND COUNTY

**FLASHING-
YELLOW-
ARROW
LEFT-TURN
SIGNALS**



FLASHING-YELLOW-ARROW LEFT-TURN SIGNAL:

A BETTER LEFT-TURN SIGNAL

Motorists in Oakland County have probably noticed a new style of left-turn signals sprouting up on Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) roads. The signals are known as "flashing-yellow-arrow left-turn signals," and offer a safer, more efficient way to handle traffic turning left at busy intersections.

The signals are being introduced nationwide and ultimately will be required at intersections where there is a separate left-turn-arrow signal. The new signals are being introduced as a result of a national study, conducted for the Federal Highway Administration, which demonstrated that the new signals help to prevent crashes, move more traffic through an intersection and provide additional traffic management flexibility for road agencies.

WHAT IS A FLASHING-YELLOW-ARROW LEFT-TURN SIGNAL?

It's a new type of signal placed OVER the left-turn lane at a signalized intersection. One of the displays on the signal includes a flashing yellow arrow. Other displays on the signal are a steady green arrow, steady yellow arrow and steady red arrow.

This type of signal is replacing the flashing-red left-turn signals that were used frequently in the past.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE NEW SIGNAL?

The new signals makes the intersections safer while reducing traffic delays. When the flashing-yellow arrow is displayed, motorists are allowed to turn left when available gaps in oncoming traffic are present. Motorists may also turn left when a green arrow is displayed and oncoming traffic has stopped. Motorists should not turn left when the red left-turn arrow is displayed.

HOW DO THE SIGNALS OPERATE?

The four-arrow signal typically will operate in the following sequence:

STEADY-GREEN ARROW:

Left turns are allowed and oncoming traffic has a red signal.

STEADY-YELLOW ARROW:

Much like the yellow signal in a traditional traffic signal, this yellow arrow warns drivers that the left-turn signal is about to turn red, and they should prepare to stop or complete their left turn if they are within the intersection.

STEADY-RED ARROW:

At the end of the steady-yellow arrow, a steady-red arrow will appear. Motorists turning left must stop and wait.

FLASHING-YELLOW ARROW:

This arrow will activate when oncoming traffic has a green light. Motorists may turn left when there is a sufficient gap in oncoming traffic (after oncoming traffic and pedestrians have cleared).

STEADY-YELLOW ARROW:

The left-turn signal is about to turn red and motorists should prepare to stop or complete their left turn if they are within the intersection. Oncoming through traffic will also have a steady yellow signal.

STEADY-RED ARROW:

Motorists turning left must stop and wait.



WHY IS THIS BETTER THAN TRADITIONAL TURN ARROWS?

The flashing-yellow signal configuration has been shown to be:

Safer

The national study demonstrated that drivers made fewer mistakes with this signal configuration than with traditional left-turn-arrow signals.

More efficient

This configuration provides traffic engineers with more options to handle variable traffic volumes.

More consistent

The flashing-yellow-arrow signals will ultimately be mandated throughout the U.S.; you'll see the same signals in every state.



WHERE WILL I SEE THESE SIGNALS?

RCOC is converting most intersections that have left-turn signals to flashing-yellow signals, though that process will take many years.

In fact, motorists will begin to see flashing-yellow-arrow left-turn signals at intersections statewide and across the United States. The Federal Highway Administration has begun the process of making these signals the standard for signalized left turns. It will, however, take a number of years for the standard to be adopted and implemented by all road agencies and municipalities nationwide.

For more information about flashing-yellow-arrow left-turn signals, visit the Web site <http://projects.kittelson.com/ppl/>.