

Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon RRFB



INCREASING DRIVER AWARENESS

Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons (RRFB) are being installed to enhance safety for pedestrians and vehicles at unsignalized intersections and mid-block pedestrian crossings in Rio Rancho.

OPERATION

RRFBs are user-actuated amber LEDs that supplement warning signs at un-signalized intersections or mid-block crosswalks. They can be activated by pedestrians manually by a push button similar to the ones used at a signalized intersection.

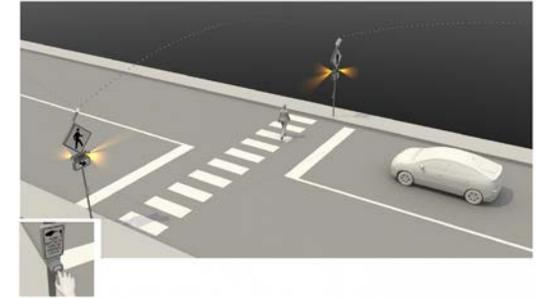
RRFBs use an irregular flash pattern that is similar to emergency flashers on police vehicles.

RRFBs may be installed on either two-lane or multi-lane roadways.

Installations within the City of Rio Rancho will be installed on Type I poles with power provided by a solar charged battery, similar to the school zone flashing beacons currently in use citywide.

USE

The pedestrian should actuate the signal prior to attempting to cross at an RRFB enhanced crosswalk location. The pedestrian will have a visual confirmation that the RRFB has been actuated by a side-mounted confirmation light mounted at the RRFB installation at the other side of the crosswalk. The pedestrian should look in the direction of oncoming traffic to determine if oncoming vehicles are aware that they are attempting a crossing and only proceed to cross once a determination has been made that it is safe to do so. The RRFB will continue for a predetermined amount of time set to accommodate a safe crossing at a given location based off of an average pedestrian crossing speed and the width of the crossing to be made.



BENEFITS

RRFBs have proven to show an increase in driver yielding behavior at unsignalized crosswalks when supplementing standard pedestrian crossing warning signs and markings.

An official Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) sponsored experimental implementation and evaluation showed that RRFBs are more effective at increasing driver yielding rates to pedestrians than traditional overhead beacons.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Pedestrians must do their part to increase their safety while using marked and unmarked crossing locations. Pedestrians can make themselves more visible (reflective clothing) and using safe routes and road crossings where possible. Drivers can help to make the road

environment safer for pedestrians by scanning for pedestrians at crossings and intersections.

CITIZEN CONCERN

The City takes its role in solving traffic problems very seriously, yet the ultimate burden of safety rests with you, the citizen in Rio Rancho. Since we receive numerous citizen requests per year, we cannot always investigate your request as quickly as we would like to. However, we will respond after carefully evaluating your request. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

If you have questions, requests or suggestions concerning traffic please call the Department of Public Works Engineering Division at: **(505) 896-8770** or through the "Citizen Concern" link at: www.ci.rio-rancho.nm.us.

REFERENCES

FHWA-SA-09-009 May 2009



**Department of Public Works
Traffic Section**
3200 Civic Center Circle NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

www.ci.rio-rancho.nm.us

