

# Safety and Operation of Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (HAWKs)

December 2, 2010



Session Duration: 100 minutes

The Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon or HAWK beacon is a pedestrian-activated beacon located on the roadside and on mast arms over major approaches to intersections. The HAWK head consists of two red lenses over a single yellow lens. It displays a red indication to drivers when activated, which creates a gap for pedestrians to use to cross the major roadway. The beacon was created in Tucson, AZ, and is currently used at 114 locations in that city. It is also being used in a number of other cities throughout the United States.

Panelists will discuss the origin, installation, and operational experience of the HAWK. This webinar will also explore the results of research on the device including a motorist yielding study and a before-after study of the HAWK's safety performance. The before-after safety evaluation found statistically significant changes in crashes after installing the HAWK: total crashes were reduced by 29 percent and pedestrian crashes reduced by 69 percent.

Presenters for this session include:

Kay Fitzpatrick, Texas Transportation Institute – Texas A&M University  
Richard Nassi, Tucson Department of Transportation (retired), Tucson, AZ  
George Branyan, District Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C.

Moderated by:

Mike Cynecki, City of Phoenix, AZ