HAWK Signals

The HAWK signal is a traffic control device designed to aid pedestrians when crossing at a mid-block crosswalk. In 2014, the City installed the first HAWK signal on Montgomery Drive across from Spring Lake Village as a pilot program. Recently a second HAWK signal was installed at Mendocino Avenue and McConnell Avenue.

How is a HAWK signal different than other traffic signals?

Like conventional traffic signals, the HAWK signal provides a pedestrian with an indication notifying them when to cross the street. Unlike conventional traffic signals, the HAWK is only operational when activated by a pedestrian.

Operationally, the HAWK signal rests in a dark state, allowing normal traffic flow. In its resting state, the HAWK displays a constant “Don’t Walk” indication for pedestrian crossing until activated by a pedestrian.

When a pedestrian presses the button, approaching drivers will see a flashing yellow signal indicating that they should reduce speed and be prepared to stop for pedestrians. The signal then changes to a solid yellow, then a solid red light indicating for drivers to stop. Once the dual red lights begin to alternately flash, vehicles must stop for pedestrians but are permitted to proceed if there are no pedestrians in the crosswalk.

When the signal is dark and if the pedestrian crossing has completed, the vehicular movement can continue through the crosswalk.

Please see the information in this brochure to learn more about how the new HAWK signal operates.
**Drivers** Instructions for motorists on how to use the HAWK signal:

The signal remains **DARK** until activated by a pedestrian. Traffic is permitted to flow through the crosswalk.

When a pedestrian presses the button, approaching drivers will see a **FLASHING YELLOW** signal for a few seconds, indicating that a pedestrian is preparing to use the crosswalk.

The **SOLID YELLOW** signal indicates that motorists should reduce speed and be prepared to stop.

The **SOLID DOUBLE RED** signal indicates drivers are required to stop and remain stopped.

The **alternating DOUBLE RED** signal indicates drivers are required to come to a complete STOP, but may proceed when pedestrians have cleared the crosswalk and it is safe to proceed. The signal will then go dark until activated by a pedestrian.

**Pedestrians** Instructions for pedestrians on how to use the HAWK signal:

Push the button to activate the HAWK signal. Wait for the **WALK** signal to appear. The **WALK** signal will appear once the overhead lights have turned RED.

**AUDIBLE CUES:** A repeating locator tone enables visually impaired people to locate the pushbutton and activate the crosswalk signal. Once the button is pushed a “wait” message indicates that traffic is not yet stopped.

Remember that the **WALK** signal does not mean it is safe to step into the street. Before stepping into the crosswalk, be sure drivers have seen you and are stopping. **AUDIBLE CUES:** Sounds for the visually impaired are broadcast letting them know the walk indication is on.

The **FLASHING DON’T WALK** signal will appear as you finish your crossing. Countdown numbers will show how much time remains to cross the street. If the red hand is flashing, don’t start crossing. If you have already begun to cross, finish crossing quickly. **AUDIBLE CUES:** The repeating locator tone is broadcast from the pushbutton box.

When a **STEADY RED HAND** is shown, do not begin to cross the street. If you are already crossing in the intersection when the **STEADY RED HAND** appears, finish crossing quickly. **AUDIBLE CUES:** The repeating locator tone is broadcast from the pushbutton box.

**Accessibility Features**

The HAWK signal features equipment that provides pedestrians with information about when the walk signal is activated. An audible tone and vibrating arrow button help visually impaired people locate the push button.

This brochure is available in PDF format on the City of Santa Rosa website at www.srcity.org/HAWKsignal

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**City of Santa Rosa**
Transportation and Public Works

**Contact Us**

The City of Santa Rosa, Transportation and Public Works Department manages and maintains all traffic and pedestrian signals in the City.

If you have questions about the new HAWK signal or other traffic related questions, please contact us at:

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