FLASHING YELLOW LEFT TURN ARROW
The City of Santa Rosa has installed the first flashing yellow left-turn arrow signal in Sonoma County at the intersection of W. Ninth Street and Dutton Avenue. This intersection has been the site of numerous left turn accidents where motorists attempting left turns collide with oncoming vehicles. A flashing yellow left-turn arrow has been shown to reduce these types of collisions.

**DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE A FLASHING YELLOW LEFT-TURN ARROW?**

It’s simple, just remember that a flashing yellow left-turn arrow means turn with caution, after yielding to oncoming cars, bicycles and pedestrians.

**Before entering the intersection, look left and look straight ahead.** Is there any oncoming traffic? Are there any on-coming pedestrians or bicyclists? Oncoming cars, bicycles and pedestrians will have the right-of-way. Once you determine it is safe to do so, make your left turn. After the flashing yellow left-turn arrow you will see the better-known solid yellow left-turn arrow. The solid yellow left-turn arrow means what it has always meant: that the signal is about to turn red and you should prepare to stop.

This new signal configuration has been implemented successfully in other states and is beginning to be utilized in California. A study conducted by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program found that drivers made fewer mistakes with flashing yellow left-turn arrows than with traditional yield-on-green signal configurations. The City of Santa Rosa will be evaluating the use of this new signal technology at other intersections as the conditions warrant.

A quick review of the flashing yellow signal:

- **A solid red arrow means STOP.** Drivers turning left must stop.

- **The solid yellow arrow indicates the signal will be changing to red and that the driver should prepare to stop.**

- **A flashing yellow arrow means turns are permitted, but you must first yield to oncoming cars, bicycles and pedestrians and then proceed with caution.**

- **A solid green arrow provides a protected left turn from oncoming traffic.** Do not go straight.

The flashing yellow left-turn signal is in the State of California and Federal Highway Administration’s Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), which is the standard for signs, signals, and pavement markings in the United States.

If you have questions or comments about the flashing yellow left-turn signal, please contact the Traffic Engineering Division at 707-543-3800 or email Quality Control Associate, Bill Ellis at bellis@srcity.org

www.srcity.org/flashingyellow