

New Signal to Help Make Alabama Intersections Safer

A new traffic signal will soon help motorists in Alabama better navigate busy intersections.

The flashing yellow arrow will be part of a four-arrow signal used where left turns are permitted after yielding to oncoming traffic. Drivers in affected intersections will see a solid green arrow, followed by a solid yellow arrow, then a solid red arrow to allow traffic to clear. The flashing yellow light will then signify left turns are permitted after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians.

Flashing yellow arrow signals are being installed at select intersections in Baldwin County. The signals will appear on US-98 from the US-31 intersection in Daphne to the CR-11 intersection in Barnwell. A flashing yellow arrow signal is already in use at US-280 and Overton Road in Birmingham. Signals will be added to additional intersections across Alabama in the coming months.

The flashing yellow arrow signals are being installed as part of recently-adopted Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices guidelines. The decision to adopt the flashing yellow arrows on a national level came after the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, in cooperation with Federal Highway Administration, launched a large-scale study of left turn controls used across the United States. The study found the flashing yellow arrow was safer, more effective and easier for drivers to understand than the standard green light which most Alabamians currently see when making unprotected left turns.

Watch a video of the signal sequence and learn more at DriveSafeAlabama.org.

Lack of Seat Belt Use Results in 255 Fatalities on Alabama Roadways in 2014

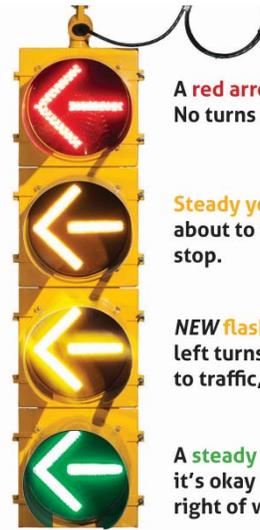
Crash activity reports from the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) show 255 people who were not wearing seat belts died in traffic accidents on Alabama's roadways in 2014.

The latest information shows a total of 511 people were killed in traffic accidents investigated by Alabama State Troopers in 2014, down from 515 fatalities in 2013. Of the 511 crash victims, 405 were in vehicles where seat belts were available.

As of Feb. 16, preliminary data from ALEA indicates there have already been 48 fatalities in 2015. Seat belts were available for 40 victims; however, 32 victims were not properly restrained.

"Troopers continue to see lives needlessly lost because the choice is made to not wear a seat belt," said Sgt. Steve Jarrett of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency.

"We are grateful for fewer fatalities in 2014, but the number who died while choosing to not wear a seat belt is heartbreaking," said Donna Jackson, ALDOT's Drive Safe Alabama coordinator. "Through Drive Safe Alabama, we will continue to emphasize the importance of wearing a seat belt and other safe driving habits so we can further reduce the number of injuries and fatalities on Alabama's roadways."



A red arrow means stop.
No turns permitted.

Steady yellow means the light is about to turn red. Be prepared to stop.

NEW flashing yellow arrow means left turns are permitted. Yield to traffic, then **turn** when clear.

A steady green arrow means it's okay to turn. You have the right of way.



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For the latest news on
Drive Safe Alabama
campaigns, events and
activities, visit
DriveSafeAlabama.org

Drive Safe Alabama Featured on TV Talk Show

Safe driving tips and highlights of ALDOT's Drive Safe Alabama initiative were featured on an episode of the Montgomery TV talk show *Joy in Our Town*.

The program, aired by WMCF TV-45, featured a conversation with Host Felicia Taylor and ALDOT's Drive Safe Alabama Coordinator Donna Jackson.

"The producer of *Joy in Our Town* invited us to share information about Drive Safe Alabama as part of the show's transportation theme," said Jackson. "We discussed a variety of safe driving tips, including the two easiest ways people can be safe on our roadways – wear a seat belt every time you enter a vehicle and don't drive while distracted."

The Drive Safe Alabama segment aired on Jan. 23. You can watch the interview on the News Hub at DriveSafeAlabama.org.



Director Intros Drive Safe Alabama to Road Builders

This article by ALDOT Director John Cooper appeared in the winter 2015 issue of *Alabama Road Builder* magazine.



The state of Alabama faces many challenges, but one of the most significant challenges – the lax safety culture on our roadways – is one we never consider until it hits close to home.

The impact of a weak safety culture hits painfully close to the families of those who die in a crash on local, state, U.S. and interstate highways across Alabama. While the number of crash fatalities has been below 900 in some recent years, Alabama's 20-year average is still around 1,000 crash fatalities per year.

A Department of Transportation staff member who deals with our annual crash data recently summed up the harsh reality of our safety culture this way: nearly 10,000 people have died in crashes on Alabama's roadways during his 10 years at ALDOT. Nationwide, 35,000 to 40,000 people die in crashes annually. As a society, we wouldn't tolerate that safety record from any other mode of travel.

That's why ALDOT has created the Drive Safe Alabama program. Drive Safe Alabama is a traffic safety marketing and education program developed around Alabama's strategic highway safety plan. The safety plan identifies excessive speed, impaired driving, distracted driving and seat belt awareness as top priorities. Drive Safe Alabama also focuses on work zone safety, RR crossing safety and motorcycle safety.

ALDOT has developed a series of safety messages for use on radio and TV, and is developing an outreach campaign that focuses on civic clubs, schools and captive-audience events such as ballgames, fairs and community events. These efforts are plugged into social media, and all messaging seeks to drive citizens to the Drive Safe Alabama website at DriveSafeAlabama.org.

I encourage you to learn more about ALDOT's Drive Safe Alabama campaign at the website, on Facebook or on Twitter. The website features links to Drive Safe Alabama's social media channels. It also includes links to TV and radio announcements designed to help strengthen our highway safety culture.

Safer roadways start with each one of us making a commitment to be safe drivers. It also includes wearing our seat belt, and encouraging everyone around us to always buckle up. Data shows that as many as 70 percent of all crash fatalities are not wearing proper seat belts or restraints. Please join me in helping make Alabama's roadways safer. Remember, every time you get behind the wheel, buckle up and Drive Safe, Alabama!

Safety Spotlight

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