



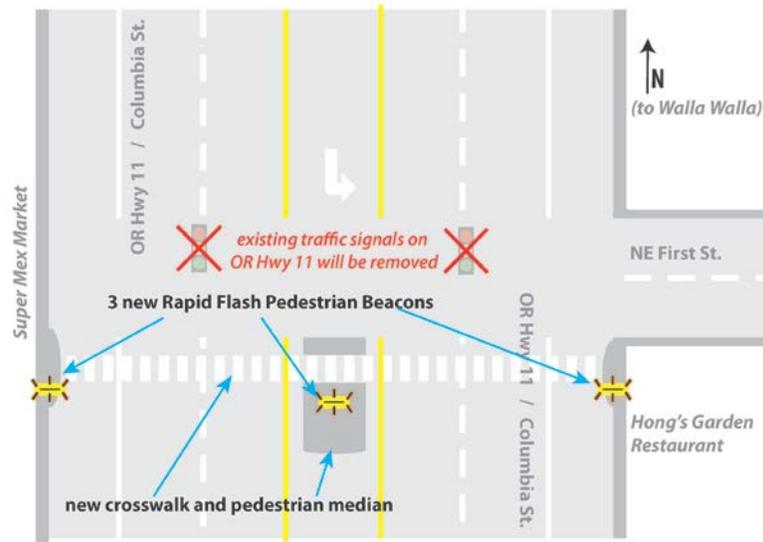
INFO SHEET: *RAPID FLASH BEACON*

Crosswalk upgrades in Milton-Freewater OR Hwy 11 (Columbia St.) / N.E. First Street intersection

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is installing crosswalk upgrades in Milton-Freewater at the intersection of OR Hwy. 11 (Columbia Street) and N.E. First Street, where the existing traffic signal is located. Three new Rapid Flash Beacons will be installed with a raised pedestrian refuge/median in the center lane of the five-lane road. Curb extensions, ADA upgrades and other improvements that will make this crossing safer for pedestrians and motor vehicles. The existing traffic signal and overhead wires will be removed once the new beacons and upgrades are installed. Work on the project began mid-February. The new beacons will be activated in March or April.

The existing traffic signal will soon be considered inadequate and won't meet federal standards. Because the signal does not face N.E. First Street motorists may fail to see that someone is crossing OR Hwy.11.

The new Rapid Flash Beacon emits light in all directions and will easily be seen by motorists on OR 11 as well as N.E. First Street, providing greater visibility than the existing traffic signal. The pedestrian refuge in the middle of the highway where the turn lane now exists will also provide a safe area for persons to stop and wait for traffic before continuing across the multi-lane highway.



How the new crosswalk flashing beacons operate:

- **Pedestrian pushes the button near crossing sign when they are ready to cross the street.**
- **When activated, the beacon will begin flashing alternating yellow colored lights similar to the pace of a strobe light.**
- **When lights are flashing and/or when pedestrians are present at crosswalk, motorists need to stop ahead of the intersection.**
- **Once all vehicles are stopped the pedestrian can travel across the roadway.**
- **Vehicles are safe to travel after all pedestrians have passed through the lane they are using plus one additional lane.**

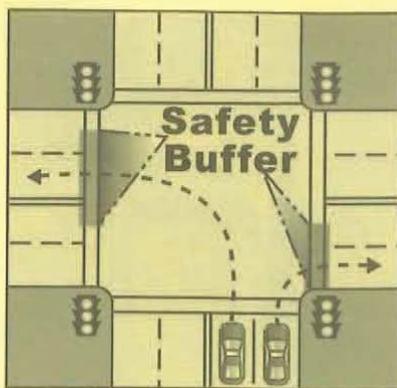
Similar beacons installed throughout the state and across the country are helping reduce vehicle vs. pedestrian crashes. ODOT and the City of Milton-Freewater urge pedestrians and motorists to pay extra attention in the area as everyone becomes accustomed to this safety feature and the traffic signal changes.

(More information on back, including link to short video demonstrating Rapid Flash Beacons)

Successful operation of the crossing signal requires cooperation and understanding by both the pedestrian and drivers of motorized vehicles.

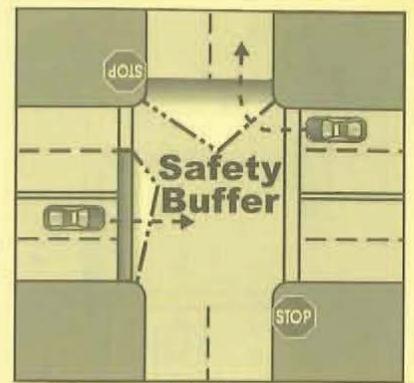
- **Pedestrians should make eye contact with drivers and ensure their vehicles have come to a complete stop before crossing the highway.**
- **Even if the light is activated, it is not safe to cross the highway until all vehicles are stopped. Drivers and pedestrians need to keep a close watch out for each other.**

Oregon's Crosswalk Laws Have Changed



← Before turning at a crosswalk with a signal, it's 1 + 6. Your lane plus six feet. Stop for the pedestrian, who must clear the lane into which the vehicle is turning PLUS 6 feet beyond that lane, before you proceed.

At any other crosswalk, it's 1 + 1. Your lane plus the next lane. Stop for the pedestrian, who must clear the lane in which the vehicle is traveling or turning PLUS the next lane, before you proceed. →



Includes Rapid Flash Beacon Crossings

The new flashing beacons are helping to improve crosswalk safety at numerous locations throughout the state. Drivers and pedestrians, however, need to continue to use caution and keep a close watch out for each other.

BEACON BUDDIES VIDEO



To view a short animated video showing how the Rapid Flash Beacons work, visit:
<http://tinyurl.com/RapidFlashBeaconVideo>

QR code to video



For more information: Interested parties can contact ODOT Region 5 Public Information Officer Tom Strandberg at (541) 963-1330, or by email at thomas.m.strandberg@odot.state.or.us. This flyer is also posted on the ODOT Region 5 Web at www.tinyurl.com/odot-region5