

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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September 15, 2020

Mr. Vijay Talada  
Executive Secretary  
California Traffic Control Devices Committee  
1120 N. Street, MS 36, Room 4500  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Request for CTCDC Approval to Use a New Word Message Sign

Dear Mr. Talada:

Caltrans District 2 requests CTCDC approval to use a new word message sign which reads "Left Turn Yield on Flashing Yellow Arrow".

**PURPOSE**

This sign will be installed on traffic signal mast arms adjacent to signal heads with flashing yellow arrow indications at three intersections along Main Street (SR-36) in Red Bluff, CA. The segment of Main Street in the downtown area was restriped from four lanes to two with a center turn lane as part of a paving project in the summer of 2020. The signs will be used for both northbound and southbound approaches at Oak Street/SR-36, Walnut Street, and Cedar Street (SR-36 PM 41.29, 41.14, 41.00, six signs total).

**BACKGROUND**

The sign is included in the NCUTCD Proposal for Changes to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices Item number 18B-RW-02.

**DISCUSSION**

The purpose of the signs will be to educate motorists about the meaning of the flashing yellow arrow for making left turns from the center turn lane. The route was previously two lanes each direction and the traffic signals operated as 4 phase signals which served each leg independently of the other three. The signal indications for each approach consisted of green arrows for left turns while concurrently serving the thru/right moves with green balls. The new three-lane configuration allowed the traffic signals to be upgraded to 6 phase operation with protected/permmissive left turns. If there is demand for a mainline left turn at the start of the signal cycle, the left turning traffic will be served with a protected green arrow which will change to a flashing yellow arrow for permmissive left turns later in the cycle. If there is no demand for the

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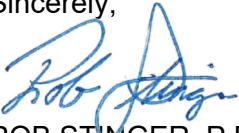
left turn at the beginning of the signal cycle, the left turn will receive a permissive flashing yellow arrow for the duration of green for mainline traffic. The flashing yellow arrow is new to the community of Red Bluff and has generated complaints that some drivers are not understanding what the flashing indication means. This has prompted the District to pursue a sign to supplement the signal indication and improve public awareness.

## SUMMARY

Caltrans District 2 seeks your consideration in the request to install a “Left Turn Yield on Flashing Yellow Arrow” word message sign at select intersections in the City of Red Bluff, CA. The sign will help increase public awareness for proper operation at a flashing yellow arrow. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Caltrans District 2 looks forward to receiving a response from the Committee.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Rob Stinger at (530) 225-3229 or by email at [rob.stinger@dot.ca.gov](mailto:rob.stinger@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



ROB STINGER, P.E.  
Chief – Traffic Engineering and Operations  
District 2

Attachments:

1. Proposed Sign Spec Detail