



MEMORANDUM

TO: Timothy J. Baroody, City Manager
FROM: Mark Whitley, Assistant City Manager
RE: Amending the FY 2022 Budget for a VDOT Grant for Traffic Signal Work
DATE: August 12, 2021 (for the August 24, 2021 Meeting)

ISSUE

The City Council is asked to re-authorize an appropriation for work funded by a VDOT Highway Safety Grant to replace traffic signal heads in the City with heads that have flashing yellow arrows.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adopting the attached resolution on first reading. Second reading would be scheduled for the meeting of September 14th, 2021.

BACKGROUND

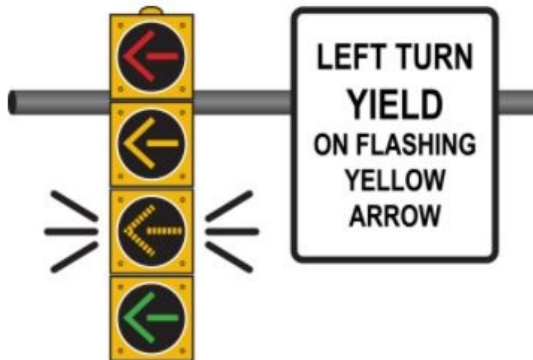
The Virginia Department of Transportation has funded a project for the City of Fredericksburg to fund the installation of new traffic signals with flashing yellow arrows (FYA). The Flashing Yellow Arrow is recognized as a safer signal for permissive left-turn movements than the older-style “green ball” signals, and it provides for better operation and phasing of traffic signals.

The City was awarded a VDOT Highway Safety Grant in FY 2020 of \$495,000 for the work. The City is now in the process of procuring this work, which will fund work at seventeen intersections in the City (with an alternative option for four more, if funding is sufficient). Main roads included in the base bid for the work include intersections along several main roads in the City.

Main Thoroughfare	# of Intersections
U.S. 1	5
Lafayette Boulevard	2
Dixon Street	2
Cowan Boulevard	3
Carl D. Silver Parkway	3
Central Park Boulevard	2

If funding is sufficient, the Invitation for Bid would allow for four additional intersections – two each on William Street and U.S. 1.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON FLASHING YELLOW ARROW SIGNALS



The flashing yellow arrow signal was included in the 2009 edition of the federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (“MUTCD”), and several of them are already installed throughout the region. The communications staff at the VDOT residency shared an information sheet, which is attached to this memorandum, and a video link for additional information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAel2UMo6jl>.

FISCAL IMPACT

The attached resolution re-appropriates \$495,000 of grant funding in the Public Works Capital Fund. The City is administering the project, but otherwise there are no local funds associated with this work.

Attachments: VDOT Fact Sheet on Flashing Yellow Arrows
Appropriation Resolution



August 24, 2021
Regular Meeting
Resolution 21-

MOTION:

SECOND:

RE: Amending the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget to Appropriate Grant Funds for Flashing Yellow Arrow Traffic Signals

ACTION: APPROVED: AYES: 0; NAYS: 0

FIRST READ: _____ **SECOND READ:** _____

The Virginia Department of Transportation awarded a grant to the City of Fredericksburg to assist in transitioning traffic signals in the City to the flashing yellow arrow system. The City Council wishes to re-appropriate the grant funding into the Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2022, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Therefore, the City Council resolves that a total appropriation of \$495,000 be made in the Public Works Capital Fund for the further development of the Bankside Trail, as follows.

Public Works Capital Fund (Fund 302)

Sources

VDOT Highway Safety Imp Program	0302 333068	\$ 495,000
Total		<u>\$ 495,000</u>

Uses

<u>VDOT HSIP Grant – Flashing Yellow Arrows</u>		
Construction Services	30294953 431700	\$ 495,000
Total		<u>\$ 495,000</u>

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

Clerk's Certificate

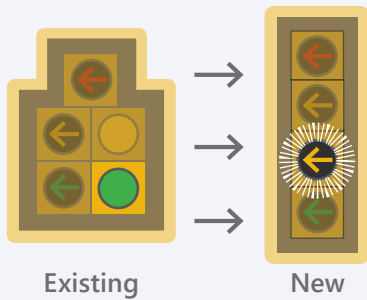
*I certify that I am Clerk of Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 21-, adopted at a meeting of the City Council held August 24,
2021, at which a quorum was present and voted.*

Tonya B. Lacey, MMC
Clerk of Council

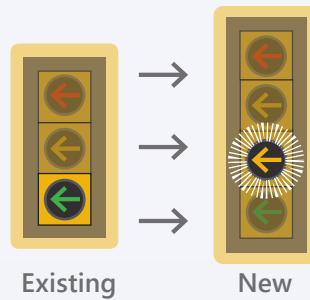
Flashing Yellow Arrow Signals

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is working harder and smarter to build and maintain the transportation system of the future. As part of this initiative, VDOT is investing wisely in improving safety at traffic signals to make travel safer and more efficient. Flashing Yellow Arrow (FYA) is one way that VDOT is making these investments and is currently being rolled out to many traffic signals throughout Virginia.

TWO TYPES OF FYA CONVERSIONS-VDOT has and will be changing existing left turn traffic signals to FYA traffic signals in two different cases.



Similar to how the driver used to yield to oncoming traffic on a green light, the driver will now yield upon seeing FYA.



At some left turns where the driver previously had to wait for a green arrow, the driver can proceed on FYA once oncoming traffic is clear.

? WHAT ARE THEY?

FYA is a traffic signal for left turns that allow a driver to proceed when oncoming traffic is clear. VDOT is replacing many signals with FYA.


👁️ WHAT DO I DO WHEN I SEE ONE?


When the yellow arrow is flashing, yield to oncoming traffic, pedestrians, or bicycles before turning left. Oncoming traffic has a green light. When other traffic is clear, proceed with caution. If there is no opposing traffic, pedestrians, or bicyclists, there is no need to stop when you arrive at the traffic signal displaying FYA. If a green arrow is displayed, proceed as normal.


📍 WHERE WILL I FIND FYAs?

FYAs can be found throughout the state! Some intersections have equipment limitations or are not ideal locations for FYAs, so they will not be installed at every intersection.

+ WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

 **Safety.** Research has shown that drivers are 25% less likely to crash when turning left at FYAs.

 **Economic.** Reducing crashes and traffic congestion will benefit Virginia's economy by helping move people and goods safely and efficiently. By implementing low cost improvements like FYA (compared to the costs of other capacity improvements), VDOT is stewarding its resources to have a greater impact for Virginia.

 **Reduced Congestion.** When left turns with green arrows are upgraded to FYAs, drivers have the opportunity to turn as soon as the way is clear rather than having to wait for the next time the green arrow is displayed. This helps reduce delay by moving vehicles through the intersection more efficiently. With FYAs, the signal can also be programmed to show FYA or the left turn green arrow during different times of the day depending on traffic.

✓ HOW DOES VDOT MAKE THE DECISION TO CHANGE A SIGNAL TO AN FYA?

VDOT conducts an engineering evaluation, looking at such things as the number of vehicles turning left, the amount and speed of oncoming traffic, the number of lanes vehicles must cross, sight lines, and crash history.

🎯 HOW IS VDOT SERVING THE PUBLIC THROUGH FYAs?

Through FYAs, VDOT is demonstrating our commitment to improving traffic signal timing and operations on congested corridors, as well as incorporating low-cost/high-benefit highway safety improvements.