



NEWS RELEASE

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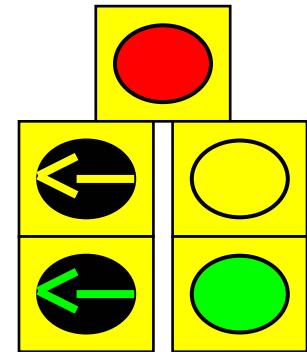
Michael F. Easley
Governor

Lyndo Tippet
Secretary

New Style Left-Turn Traffic Signal Heads

Motorists along North Carolina's streets and highways may begin to see a new simpler, style left-turn traffic signal head. Gone will be the "doghouse" style left-turn signals.

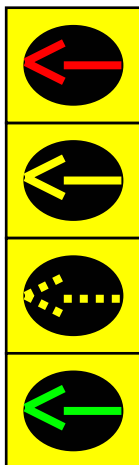
The North Carolina Department of Transportation is beginning an evaluation of the new style traffic signal head. This traffic signal head is the result of a part of a national study sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration. The study sought to improve driver understanding of left-turn traffic signal displays and to reduce accidents at signalized intersections.



"Doghouse style left-turn traffic signal head"

The new style left-turn traffic signal head is designed to make it easier for drivers to know what to do when making a left turn. The traffic signal head will add a flashing yellow arrow. When the flashing yellow arrow is displayed, left turns are permitted but drivers **must yield** to oncoming traffic.

Here is what the new style left-turn traffic signal head will look like and what drivers should do as the light changes:



Solid Red Arrow – Stop. No turns are allowed.

Solid Yellow Arrow – Prepare to stop.

Flashing Yellow Arrow – Left turns are allowed, but first they must yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians.

Solid Green Arrow – Left turns allowed, and they do not need to yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. Proceed with caution.

After you see the new style left-turn traffic signal head, the North Carolina Department of Transportation invites you to express your opinion by calling 1-877-DOT-4YOU (1-877-368-4968). Your comments will be used to determine the Department's policy on the use of this new traffic signal head.