

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB)

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHBs) can warn and control traffic at unsignalized locations and assist pedestrians in crossing a street or highway at a marked crosswalk. A PHB should be installed in conjunction with the following:

- Overhead beacons with three sections (circular yellow signal indication centered below two horizontally aligned circular red signals) facing both directions on the major street.
- Overhead signs labeled "CROSSWALK STOP ON RED" to indicate that the location is associated with a pedestrian crosswalk.
- A marked crosswalk on the major street.
- Countdown pedestrian signal heads to control pedestrian crossings at the crosswalk.
- Pedestrian detectors, such as pushbuttons.

Unlike a traffic signal, the PHB rests in dark until a pedestrian activates it via pushbutton or other form of detection. When activated, the beacon displays a sequence of flashing and solid lights that indicate the pedestrian walk interval and when it is safe for drivers to proceed. A solid red light requires drivers to stop while pedestrians have the right-of-way to cross the street. The overhead beacon flashes red when the pedestrian signals display a flashing DONT WALK indication. Drivers may proceed if the crosswalk is clear.

The PHB is often considered for installation at locations where pedestrians need to cross and vehicle speeds or volumes are high, but traffic signal warrants are not met. These devices have been successfully used at school crossings, parks, senior centers, and other pedestrian crossings on multilane streets. PHBs are typically installed at the side of the road or on mast arms over midblock pedestrian crossings.

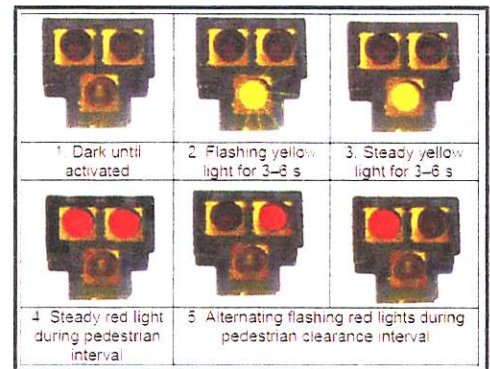
Purpose

A PHB is a special type of beacon used to warn and control traffic at an unsignalized location to assist pedestrians in crossing a street or highway at a marked crosswalk.

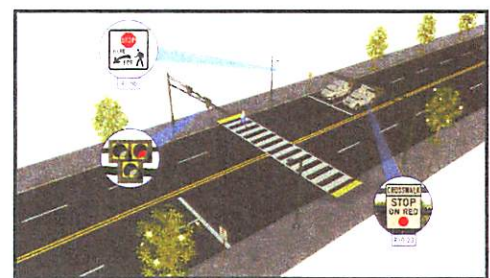
Considerations

- PHBs are a candidate treatment for roads with three or more lanes that generally have annual average daily traffic (AADT) above 9,000.
- Strongly consider a PHB for all midblock and intersection crossings where the roadway speed limits are equal to or greater

View Other Signals and Signs Treatments



The progression of a PHB.



Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon installation shown with accompanying signs and pavement markings. *Federal Highway Administration.*