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NEWS RELEASE

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Flashing Yellow Left-Turn Arrow Traffic Signals Introduced to Dubuque Streets

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Dubuque motorists may have noticed a new type of signal added to two traffic lights on Ninth Street as part of recent construction projects. The flashing yellow left-turn arrow signal is a new traffic management tool aimed at keeping traffic moving, increasing safety, and reducing fuel consumption.

The new signals were installed at the intersections of Ninth and Locust and Ninth and White streets in Dubuque and are being added to intersections across Iowa. The new signal features a flashing yellow left-turn arrow, in addition to a red, green and steady yellow arrow. The flashing yellow arrow replaces the circular green signal used in the traditional left-turn signal configuration to indicate the need for left-turning vehicles to yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians.

A flashing yellow arrow means left turns are permitted, but motorists must first yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians, and then proceed with caution. The flashing yellow arrow does not replace the solid yellow arrow and its meaning; it does replace the green “ball” indication as a signal for a yielding left turn.

Drivers approaching a flashing left-turn arrow should stop at the intersection and yield to oncoming traffic. If, and when, it is safe, drivers may turn left and proceed through the intersection. When the available time for the flashing yellow arrow ends, the solid yellow left-turn arrow begins. The solid yellow retains its standard meaning – the left turn signal

is about to go to red, so drivers must prepare to stop or complete a left turn if already in the intersection.

The Federal Highway Administration has adopted the flashing yellow arrow as a national standard for permissive left-turn operations. Several such signals have already been installed in other locations around Iowa. Others will be installed by the Iowa Department of Transportation and local jurisdictions throughout Iowa as they upgrade their traffic signals or make improvements at intersections.

The flashing yellow arrow may be used at any intersection at any time, but the most typical use will be at intersections and time-of-day that have lower traffic volumes, lower traffic speeds and other favorable conditions.

The flashing yellow left-turn arrow is intended to:

- **Help prevent crashes.** A national study demonstrated that drivers found flashing yellow left-turn arrows more understandable than traditional yield-on-green indications.
- **Reduce traffic delays.** There are more opportunities to make a left turn with the flashing yellow left-turn arrow than with the traditional three-arrow, red, yellow and green indications. This helps reduce delays at intersections, which saves time and fuel.
- **Provide more traffic management flexibility.** The new traffic signals provide traffic engineers with more options to handle variable traffic volumes.

The City of Dubuque Engineering Department plans to replace many of the city's existing "yield-on-green" ball signals with the flashing yellow arrow.

Steady Red Arrow	Drivers turning left must stop and wait.
Steady Yellow Arrow	The left-turn signal is about to turn red. Do not enter the intersection if you can stop safely. Complete your left turn if you are already within the intersection
Flashing Yellow Arrow	Yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians; then turn left, proceeding with caution. Oncoming traffic has a green light.
Steady Green Arrow	Drivers can proceed with the left turn. Oncoming traffic must stop. Do not go straight.

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The majority of the information in this news release was provided by the Iowa Department of Transportation. For additional information, visit <http://www.iowadot.gov/mvd/ods/flashingyellowarrow.html>