

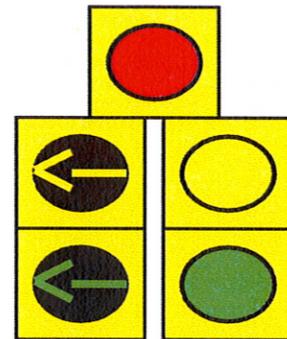


NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

New Style Left-Turn Traffic Signal Heads

One day, motorists along North Carolina's streets and highways may see a new style left-turn traffic signal head. Gone will be the "cluster" (or "doghouse") style left-turn signals.

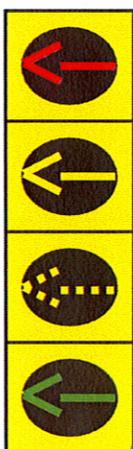
The North Carolina Department of Transportation is beginning an evaluation of the new style traffic signal head. The initial evaluation site was installed along New Bern Avenue at the employee / visitor entrance to Wake Medical Center in Raleigh, NC in February 2005. This traffic signal head is the result 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.



*"5-Section 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.

If you see the new style left-turn traffic signal head or would like to express your opinion, please contact Mr. Greg A. Fuller, PE at (919)661-5800 or [gfuller@ncdot.gov](mailto:gfuller@ncdot.gov)