



Media Advisory

Department of Public Works *Providing a clean, safe and healthy environment*

Richmond, Virginia

The Honorable Mayor Levar M. Stoney

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City Installs First Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

~ Vision Zero Initiative to Enhance Safety for Motorists, Pedestrians and Bicyclists ~

RICHMOND, Va. – As part of the City's Vision Zero initiative to eliminate fatal and serious injury crashes, the Department of Public Works (DPW) is installing a new type of traffic control device to enhance pedestrian safety throughout the City. The Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) is a traffic control device designed to help pedestrians and bicyclists safely cross busy or higher-speed, multi-lane roadways and uncontrolled intersections. The beacon head consists of two red lenses above a single yellow lens. The lenses remain "Dark" until a pedestrian pushes the call button to activate the beacon. The City's first PHB was installed on Grove Avenue at Somerset Avenue through a partnership with Saint Catherine's School and will be activated on March 2.

Instructions on How to Use the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon:

1. The beacon is "**DARK MODE**" for **motorists** until **pedestrians/bicyclists** push the button to activate it and **pedestrians/bicyclists** approaching the crosswalk see a steady "Don't Walk" indication
2. When **pedestrians/bicyclists** press the button:
 - o **Motorists** will see a **FLASHING YELLOW** indication for a few seconds, signaling that the beacon has been activated and motorists should **SLOW DOWN** and be prepared to STOP
 - o **Pedestrians/bicyclists** will continue to see a "Don't Walk" indication and must wait
3. The flashing yellow is followed by a **SOLID YELLOW** indication
 - o **Motorists** should STOP if able to safely do so
 - o **Pedestrians/bicyclists** will continue to see a "Don't Walk" indication and must continue to wait
4. The solid yellow is followed by double **SOLID RED** indication
 - o **Motorists** are required to come to a complete STOP
5. **Pedestrians/bicyclists** receive a "**WALK**" indication and, if clear, can begin to cross the road in the marked crosswalk
 - The double solid red is followed by alternating **FLASHING RED** indication
 - o **Motorists** are required to **STOP**, or remain stopped, until **pedestrians/bicyclists** have finished crossing the street. Drivers may proceed with caution after coming to a stop to ensure that no one else is walking across the street.
6. Once the person has safely crossed, the beacon goes back to the **DARK MODE** and drivers may proceed through the crossing at or below the posted speed limit.

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons are also planned for the following locations:

- Belvidere Street at Virginia War Memorial
- Broad Street at 16th Street
- Forest Hill Avenue at Huguenot High School
- Hull Street at Silverwood
- Hull Street at Worsham Way
- Laburnum Avenue at Holton Elementary School
- Leigh Street at Abner Clay Park
- Main Street at 24th Street (GRTC)
- Main Street at Chimborazo Park/Pear Street
- Semmes Avenue at Canoe Run Park
- Semmes Avenue at Carter Jones Park
- Williamsburg and Stony Run

Additional Vision Zero initiatives to improve safety include: installing more high visibility crosswalks, flashing beacons, and new in-street STOP for pedestrian signs at some of the 150 uncontrolled intersections.

Over the past several years, DPW has invested \$4.25 million of funding into pedestrian safety improvements at over 450 signalized intersections through high visibility crosswalks, accessible ramps, signal timings, and pedestrian countdown signals. The installation of pedestrian hybrid beacons across the city adds another layer of safety to help people cross multi-lane streets. The City secured funding for these safety initiatives through partnerships with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and federal grants from the Highway Safety Improvement Program. Through our partners with FHWA and VDOT, the City is delivering the largest jurisdiction-based pedestrian safety investment of \$8.72 million in the Commonwealth of Virginia from 2018-2022.

For more information, please visit us online at <https://www.rva.gov/public-works> or email us at AskDPW@RichmondGov.com

We're Social! For updates on DPW-related projects, activities and events visit us on Twitter [@DPW_RichmondVA](https://twitter.com/DPW_RichmondVA)

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The City of Richmond Department of Public Works (DPW) is one of only 178 currently accredited public works agencies in the United States. DPW's portfolio comprises a wide array of services to include leaf collection; street, sidewalk and alley maintenance; trash collection; recycling; grass cutting; graffiti removal; parking enforcement; urban forestry; street signs; traffic signals and pavement markings and civil engineering. In addition, DPW maintains upkeep on most city buildings; issues permits for working in the city's right-of-way; manages the RVA Bike Share program and maintains the fleet of city vehicles. DPW's operating budget comes from the general fund of the City of Richmond. For more information about DPW services, [click here](#) or call 3-1-1.