

## HAWK Signals in DC

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) installed the first HAWK signal at Georgia Ave. and Hemlock St. NW in 2009. Since then, the HAWK signal (also known as a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon) has been approved for use by the Federal Highway Administration.

DDOT plans to install more HAWK signals in 2013 to improve street crossing safety for pedestrians.

## Pedestrian Safety

DDOT places a high priority on pedestrian safety and is focusing efforts on un-signalized crosswalks on high volume roadways. These crossings often do not meet engineering standards for installing a conventional traffic signal, and therefore DDOT uses other treatments.

District law requires motorists to stop and give the right of way to pedestrians legally within crosswalks. However, DDOT research has shown that on busy, high volume roadways, only about 1 in 4 drivers is willing to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk. If appropriate warrants are met, a HAWK signal can be installed on such roadways which would significantly increase motorist awareness and compliance with pedestrian right of way law.

## Accessibility for Disabled

HAWK signals in the District usually feature Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) equipment that provides disabled pedestrians with information about the signal. An audible message and vibrating arrow button announce when the WALK signal is on.

## Side Street Traffic

If a side street is present at a HAWK signal, it will continue to be controlled by a stop sign.

## Questions?

If you have questions about the HAWK signal or any traffic control device in the District, please contact:

**District Department of Transportation**

55 M Street, SE, Suite 400

Washington, DC 20003

**Email** [ddot@dc.gov](mailto:ddot@dc.gov)

**Phone** 202-673-6813

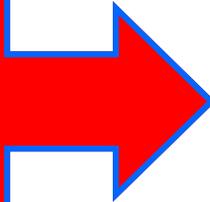
**Website** [ddot.dc.gov](http://ddot.dc.gov)



# HAWK Pedestrian Signal Guide



# How does a HAWK Signal work?



## Pedestrians

Will see this...

Will do this....



**Push button to call for WALK signal**  
(Some locations automatically detect pedestrians)



**Wait**  
It may take up to 1 minute for the signal to change



**Wait**



**Start Crossing after you see the WALK signal**  
(Be sure traffic has stopped)



**Continue Crossing**  
(Countdown signal)



**Push the button to cross**

## Motorists

Will see this...

Will do this....



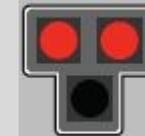
**Proceed**



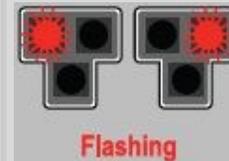
**Proceed with Caution**  
(Signal has been activated)



**Slow down and prepare to STOP**



**STOP!**  
(Pedestrians in Crosswalk)



**STOP!**  
Then proceed with caution if clear



**Proceed**

## What is a HAWK Signal?



The HAWK signal is a signal-beacon designed to help pedestrians safely cross busy streets.

While different in appearance for motorists, to the pedestrian this signal works similar to other push button-activated traffic signals in the District. It stops traffic with a red signal, allowing pedestrians to cross with a WALK signal. At certain locations, the signal can automatically detect the presence of pedestrians waiting to cross and will activate the signal. HAWK signals can be installed on streets with regular traffic signals as part of the District's coordinated signal system.