Steady Red Arrow: Stop! No left turns allowed.

Steady Yellow Arrow: The signal is about to turn red and drivers should prepare to stop.

Flashing Yellow Arrow: Left turns are allowed, but you must yield to oncoming traffic/pedestrians.

Steady Green Arrow: It's safe to turn left. Oncoming traffic must stop.

For questions or concerns about traffic signal operations, please contact the Traffic Signal Maintenance Division at 713-881-3210
Harris County is undergoing a system wide traffic signal modernization to improve the overall operations of the traffic signal network. This includes the evaluation and implementation of flashing yellow arrow signals by road corridor countywide.

WHAT IS A FLASHING YELLOW ARROW LEFT-TURN SIGNAL?

It is a type of signal that is utilized at exclusive left-turn lanes. The signal display includes four (4) arrows, a steady red, steady yellow, flashing yellow arrow, and steady green. The new signal is accompanied with a sign stating “Left Turn YIELD on Flashing Yellow Arrow.”

EVALUATION, DESIGN, AND IMPLEMENTATION

An intersection is evaluated based on the following criteria:
• Proximity to school zones
• Traffic volumes
• Number of crashes (involving left turns)
• Intersection Geometry
• Sight Restrictions

If the intersection meets established criteria, a flashing yellow arrow signal and sign will be installed.

A flashing yellow arrow indicates that a driver is allowed to cautiously enter an intersection only to make the turn indicated by the arrow. The driver shall first yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians, then proceed with caution.

BENEFITS

SHORTER WAIT TIMES
Based on a recent study, the flashing yellow arrows reduce driver delay and wait time. Motorists have more opportunities to make a left turn with the flashing yellow arrow than with the traditional left-turn indications, which keeps traffic moving.

FLEXIBLE SIGNAL TIMING
The flashing yellow arrow turn signal provides more options to most effectively handle all types of traffic volume and reduce traffic congestion.

CONSISTENCY
Motorists will see the same signal indications because flashing yellow arrow is being introduced throughout the United States.