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Columbus Consolidated Government News Release

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For Immediate Release:

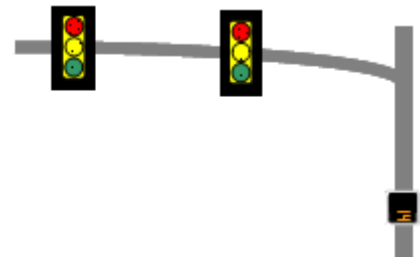
Columbus Fall Line Trace *Two Signalized Pedestrian Crossings Are Operational*

(Columbus, Georgia – April 20, 2011) The Columbus Fall Line Trace Project includes two different types of signalized intersections to protect pedestrians and cyclists crossing two of the multi-lane streets. The first is a pedestrian actuated traffic signal located on Gentian Boulevard (in front of Columbus State University’s Cunningham Center). The second is a Hawk Beacon located on Hilton Avenue just north of Camille Drive. Each will be evaluated to determine which type of device provides the best protection of pedestrians/cyclists while have limited impact to motorists for future projects.

The way these two signalized pedestrian crossings will work is explained below:

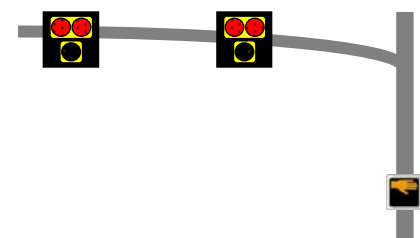
Pedestrian Signal at Gentian Boulevard

The signalized pedestrian crossing for Gentian Boulevard at the Columbus Fall Line Trace crossing will operate like any normal traffic signal. The drivers will always see a green signal until a pedestrian presses the pedestrian pushbutton. Once the pushbutton is pressed and after a short period of time, drivers will see a typical change from green to yellow then red. At that point, the pedestrian will see the Walk symbol and, once traffic has stopped, can proceed across the street. Once the WALK symbol expires, the pedestrian will see a FLASHING DON’T WALK symbol with countdown indicating that they should not enter the crosswalk. After a set amount of time, the FLASHING DON’T WALK will expire and a DON’T WALK symbol will be displayed. At that time, the drivers will again receive a green indication to proceed.



HAWK Beacon at Hilton Avenue

The pedestrian hybrid beacon constructed for Hilton Avenue at the Fall Line Trace crossing is commonly referred to as a HAWK Beacon (High intensity Crosswalk). The “beacon” label is used as opposed to “signal” due to the fact that it remains dark (no visible



indications) to the driver until it is activated by a pedestrian. Any pedestrian approaching the beacon will see a DON'T WALK indication. Once activated by a pedestrian, drivers will see a series that consists of a flashing yellow, solid yellow, double solid red, wig-wag flashing red and finally back to dark. While the vehicles are stopped, the pedestrians will see the typical WALK Symbol followed by a FLASHING DON'T WALK with countdown and finally the DON'T WALK symbol again.

Note: Pedestrians should not expect an immediate response when they press the pushbutton. Minimal delays will be programmed to ensure that the pedestrian signal does not constantly cycle creating unusually heavy delays for vehicles in this area. Traffic engineering will continue to monitor the operation of this signal to ensure that it provides the maximum benefit for pedestrians and drivers in the area.

The City of Columbus recommends all users to be cautious at the different intersections. The Traffic Engineering Department has put together a presentation to show how the HAWK Beacon signal works. The presentation can be viewed at www.columbusga.org/planning. For more information call the Planning Department at 706-653-4421 or the Engineering Department at 706-653-4135.
