

## Left Turn Signs



Indicates Lane Usage



Permitted



Protected



For additional information:

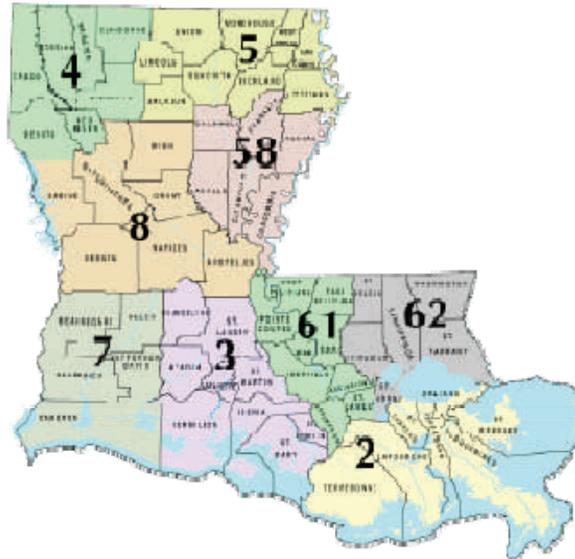
LA DOTD Headquarters  
Traffic Engineering  
(225)242-4635

District Traffic Operation Engineers

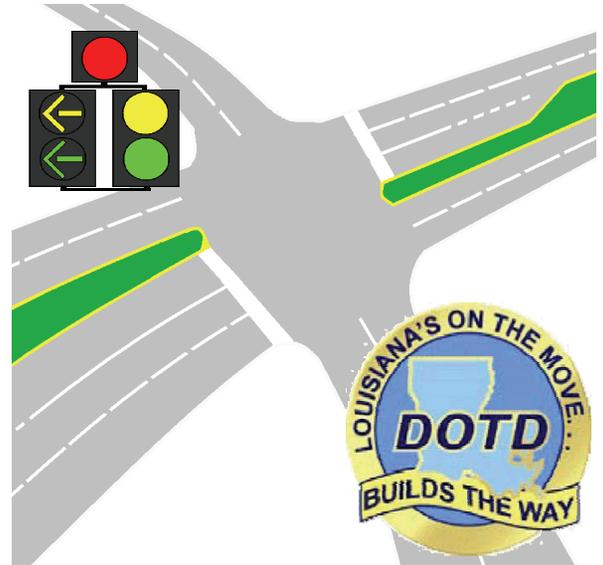
District 02 (504) 437-3105  
District 03 (337) 262-6105  
District 04 (318) 549-8305  
District 05 (318) 342-0105  
District 07 (337) 437-9105  
District 08 (318) 561-5105  
District 58 (318) 412-3206  
District 61 (225) 389-2141  
District 62 (985) 375-0105

## Left Turn Safety Tips

- ← Watch for pedestrians in crosswalks before making a turn
- ← Watch for oncoming vehicles approaching the intersection
- ← Watch for vehicles exiting driveways near the intersection
- ← Be cautious when making a left turn when the left turn signal is yellow



# Left Turn Traffic Signals



## Left Turn Signals

Left turn signals at intersections with traffic signals are used to **prevent delays and accidents for left turning vehicles**. Unfortunately, left turn signals **may also increase delay to through traffic**, decrease the intersection capacity, and reduce the efficiency of the signal coordination.

For these reasons, LaDOTD has adopted conditions called "warrants" that **set a minimum requirement for the installation of left turn signals**. When left turn signals are requested, a traffic study is conducted to determine if conditions meet the warrants. If so, the left turn signal is programmed for construction.

## Different Types of Signals

There are three different types of signals that drivers come across when turning left at intersections with left turn lanes.

### Permissible



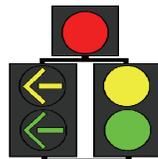
Permissible left turn signals allow drivers the option of turning left when the **light is green ONLY after yielding** to opposing traffic and pedestrians.

### Protected



Protected left turn signals stop oncoming traffic to give left turn drivers **safe passage** through the intersection. With protected left turns signals, drivers are **not allowed to pass** through the intersection **without a green arrow** even if there is no oncoming traffic.

### Protected/Permissible



The protected portion of the signal will allow drivers to **turn during the green arrow** without hinder. The permissible portion of the signal **allows drivers to turn left after they have yielded to oncoming traffic** and pedestrians even without a green arrow.

## Why doesn't the left turn arrow come on every series of the light cycle?

At most intersections, traffic turning left is in the vast minority. Providing a protected left turn arrow every light cycle may **unnecessarily delay** the larger majority of the **through traffic**. LaDOTD has a **system in place to sense whether vehicles are in the turn lane** when the cycle comes to the protected left turn portion of the cycle. Vehicles in the left turn lane may be able to make a permissible turn before the protected portion of the cycle begins. The sensors will direct the lights to skip the protected left turn portion of the cycle.

## How are new left turn signals requested?

You may **contact your District Traffic Operation Engineers** in your part of the state. District boundaries and the appropriate numbers are shown on the back of this pamphlet.