

Left Turn Signs



Indicates Lane Usage



Permitted



Protected



For additional information:

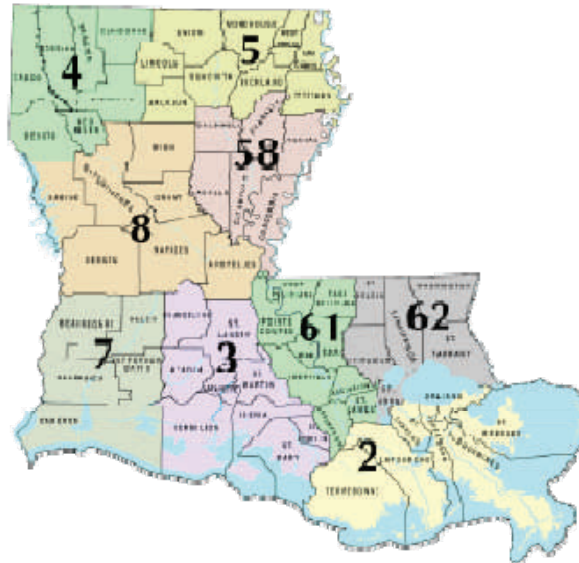
LA DOTD Headquarters
Traffic Engineering
(225)242-4635

District Traffic Operation Engineers

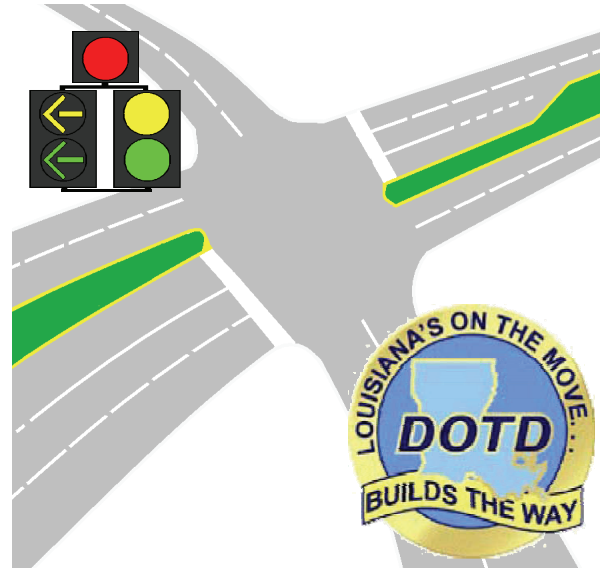
District 02 (504) 437-3105
District 03 (337) 262-6105
District 04 (318) 549-8305
District 05 (318) 342-0105
District 07 (337) 437-9105
District 08 (318) 561-5105
District 58 (318) 412-3206
District 61 (225) 389-2141
District 62 (985) 375-0105

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

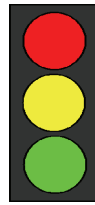
Left turn signals at intersections with traffic signals are used to prevent delays and accidents for left turning vehicles. Unfortunately, left turn signals may also increase delay to through traffic, decrease the intersection capacity, and reduce the efficiency of the signal coordination.

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



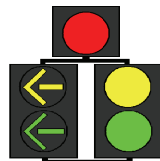
Permissible left turn signals allow drivers the option of turning left when the light is green ONLY after yielding to opposing traffic and pedestrians.

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.