The Indiana Department of Transportation will begin using flashing yellow arrow traffic signal indications for protected/permissive left turns as part of signal modernizations on state highways. The protected/permissive left-turn signals provide a protected period of time when left-turning vehicles have exclusive right-of-way, and a permissive period when left-turning vehicles are allowed if there are no opposing through vehicles.

Over the next several years, INDOT will be installing new four-section signals — which include a flashing yellow arrow. These signals will replace the left-turn traffic signals that do not include a flashing yellow arrow. At certain locations with vertical clearance limitations, INDOT may use an alternative three-section signals to display flashing yellow arrow indications.

The new left-turn signal will improve intersection efficiency by allowing more left turns during each signal cycle. The new signals also will improve intersection safety by providing an instruction to left-hand turning drivers that remains for the entire signal phase.

A flashing yellow arrow for left turns at an intersection means that motorists should slow down and use caution when turning, and must yield the right-of-way to oncoming traffic as well as any pedestrians who may be crossing the intersection.
Steady Red Arrow
Drivers turning left must stop and wait.

Steady Yellow Arrow
Stop, if you can do so safely.

Flashing Yellow Arrow
Proceed with left turn after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians.

Steady Green Arrow
Proceed with left turn.

Motorists are advised to review and understand the meaning of the new signals, which have been adopted by the Federal Highway Administration as a preferred practice for protected/permissive left-turn operations and are operational in states across the nation.

Information about flashing yellow arrow traffic signals can be found at www.in.gov/indot/3202.htm.