



Robinson Rd Pedestrian Crossing Signal April 6, 2023

23 Citizens in Attendance

Nestor explains that the public outreach should have occurred earlier, but the timing with the signal install did not synchronize with our intended outreach schedule.

Please visit <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/public-works/highways/> to view all materials that were presented at the meeting.

Community Questions

Will the signal have a countdown? *Yes. This is a new standard for County signals.*

Regarding the devaluation of property due to the signal installation - the reference information that you are using shows home values from 3 years ago. This is not applicable for today. In other countries, the installation of a signal near a home will lower its value and the installer needs to pay the homeowner reparations if they lose money upon the sale of their home due to the signal being near it. *Nestor responds that the data that we use is based on properties in Anne Arundel County and we have yet to see any devaluation. The laws that you stated do not apply for Anne Arundel County.*

I am concerned about light intrusion. Did you already dim the Evergreen ped signal? Because that is shining orange on all of the houses. *No, we have not yet had any requests to modify or dim the signal lighting.*

Will the signal be operational 24/7? Because the trail is only supposed to be used from dusk to dawn. There is no need to have it operational 24/7. *The signal will be operational 24/7 to allow for sidewalk users to utilize the signal when needed. One option available for having the signal be dark, is called the HAWK signal. There is a HAWK pedestrian crossing signal on West Street. We reached out to the State Highway Administration (SHA) to discuss their experience with the HAWK signal and they are not satisfied with the operations at the intersection. The same issue occurred at another location in Bethesda. The signal being dark confuses drivers as to the function of the signa.*

Eastern District police wanted to be in this meeting to educate bikers and peds on why this signal is important, and to explain the issues they are experiencing with bikers/peds not abiding to the rules of the road. Will they be having a separate meeting? *Our office will reach out to the police and if there is another meeting, the Traffic Engineering Division (TED) will attend.*

Currently, there is very little wait time for peds/bikers as drivers stop while peds/bikers are on the sidewalk to allow for them to cross. I am worried that people aren't going to use the signal. They are going to just cross and not push the button. I already talked to some teenagers that said they won't use it. Nestor answered that we unfortunately cannot control the actions of the users and we hope that they use the button to cross.

How will officers enforce this signal? Will I get a ticket if I do not stop? What about if it isn't functioning properly and is stuck on red? Will I get a ticket for running a red light even though I had to? *From the driver's perspective on Robinson Road, the police will enforce this signal similarly to other traffic signals. From the trail user perspective, the police will enforce the pedestrian indications similarly to other pedestrian signals. The signal is programmed to always service Robinson Road. The probability of being stuck on Red is minimum. We document signal operations; if you get a ticket due to malfunctioning, please contact our office, and we'll support the malfunctioning for you to contest the citation.*

If you drive up to an intersection with a crosswalk and there is a pedestrian on the sidewalk waiting to cross, do they not have the right of way? In California they do. Correct. They do **not have the right of way in the state of MD. It is up to the pedestrian to establish the right of way by waiting for a proper gap to cross the roadway. The pedestrian signal will control and establish the right-of-way, so that there is no confusion between peds/bikers and drivers.**

Evergreen has a speed limit that differs from Robinson. Why is that? Can we try to change that speed limit again? *The speed limits are set based on historical data that shows the speed at which a driver can comfortably and safely navigate the road. The speed limit is consistent for Robinson through Benfield as it is an arterial road. TED can schedule an analysis to determine if it would be possible to change the speed limit for Robinson.*

Who is going to control the signal while there is an event on the trail? *We can set the signal to "all flash" so that the police can manage the ped crossing where needed.*

How are crossing guards going to interact with the signal? *TED met with the crossing guard supervisor for Anne Arundel County Public Schools and they are aware to control the signal by pushing the button when children are ready to cross as an added layer of security.*

Who painted the white bicycles on the bike lane on Robinson Rd? Anyone who rides a bicycle in that lane is unsafe. It is not wide enough. *We were aware that there were already bikers using Robinson Road quite frequently. Since cyclists are already on the road, the pavement markings help make drivers aware that there may be a rider in the area. TED abided by the County guidelines for the width of a bike lane and the width is correct.*

What does the law state about bikes being used on sidewalks? *Citizens are permitted to ride bikes on the sidewalk unless there is a local ordinance stating you cannot be on the sidewalk. The County Code states that pedestrians have the right of way, but bikes are allowed to be used on the sidewalk.*

If a biker decides to be on the sidewalk and there is a trail nearby, is that allowed? They should be using the trail not the sidewalk. *Bikers can use both as long as they follow the appropriate local guidelines.*

If there is a trail available, but a biker decides not to use it and uses the sidewalk, should they be using the trail instead? *It is preferable for the biker to be using the trail, but they have the right to use the sidewalk even when a trail is within the vicinity.*

Is there a County code that states that advance notice needs to be given before this kind of device is installed? It's going to impact our property values and it is a huge eye sore and it is very large. It's too close to our community sign. It has taken away the beauty of our community entrance. I think alternative solutions should have been considered based on resident concerns about property values. *No, the County is not required to provide advance notice of the installation of such devices. Nestor will evaluate the sign posts and see what changes can be made. Please reference the above property value question/answer.*

If someone crosses quickly, do I have to wait for the light to blink yellow before proceeding even though no one is in the crosswalk? *Yes, you will need to wait the full 21 seconds before crossing. There will be a 5 second delay if the pedestrian decides not to use the light after pushing. If there is no detection after 5 seconds, the signal will not go to red. It will stay blinking yellow.*

I am worried that this is going to severely back up traffic. *TED's data analysis shows that the signal will not have any significant effect on traffic, however, please contact our office to inform us if you are noticing any significant changes due to the signal.*

Will there be any new pavement markings associated with the signal? *Pavement markings will be the same for now, however, crosswalks were installed to establish a clear crossing zone.*

How are people on O'Donnel Ct going to be able to make a left turn out of their community during high traffic and pedestrian times? *TED will re-evaluate the timing of the signals should this prove to be an issue. Our simulation software does not show that this will be an issue. Our data shows that they should be able to find a gap in traffic to exit to Robinson Rd.*

When is the signal going to start operation? *Approximately at the beginning/middle of May. We are still waiting on power and equipment and developing our educational program as well.*

Was any consideration made for emergency vehicles? I am concerned they will not be able to get through traffic backing up at the signal. *Vehicles can move into the center turn lane to allow for the passing of emergency vehicles. It will be the same as any other traffic situation on any other crowded road.*

I am concerned about light pollution from the signal. *TED is willing to consider adjustments to the signal should light pollution prove to be a pressing issue. Please contact our office to let us know if adjustments need to be made once the signal has been turned on.*

What if the detection piece of the signal doesn't work? Will it just cycle over and over again? *Eventually, over time, there is potential for glitches in signal equipment as it ages. Our experience in other parts of the County is that the detection is very reliable. However, if you notice an issue with the operation of the signal please call our Traffic Maintenance Shop at 410-222-1940 any time of the day.*

If someone stops in the area of the signal to rest and has no intention of crossing, will it trigger anyway? I see a lot of peds/bikers stop here just to take a break and cars will stop for them to cross, but they just wave the cars away because they are only resting. *We can adjust the detection zone once we can determine where people tend to stop and rest, this way it will not trigger. It will not detect someone walking parallel to the signal which has been proven in other locations.*

Would it be possible to install a sign with your information to contact if something goes wrong with the signal? *The controller box at the intersection will be labeled with our contact information. You will be able to contact someone 24/7.*

Is this type of signal planned elsewhere on the trail? *Severn Way, Whites Road, Old County Road, and W B&A Rd are being considered for this type of signal as well. College Pkwy @ Jones Station Rd will also have this type of signal once the new trail opens. We also suggest you evaluate Shore Acres Rd for this type of crossing. The crossing at this location is already signalized.*

The sensor will know automatically when someone is trying to cross. Is there also a button? Or is it just a detection sensor? *There will be both.*

What is the County's plan to mitigate noise, light, and air pollution with more traffic stopping in our neighborhood? *The County was not required to perform pollution studies for the signal. We do not believe that the installation of a ped crossing signal will have any significant impact on any of these issues.*

A lot of research points out that more accidents occur when signals are installed. *Typically, the installation of a traffic signal generates an increase of rear end collisions. However, our most recent experience with the Cedar Rd and Evergreen Pedestrian signal has not shown any significant increase in rear end collisions or total crashes.*

Per Adam with AACo Recreation and Parks, the stop signs for pedestrians/bikers at the trail will be removed at this intersection as they are contradictory to the ped crossing signal. *Please contact our office to report any missing or faded signs and we will work in coordination with Rec and Parks.*