

## WHAT IS RCOC?

The Road Commission for Oakland County maintains Michigan's largest county road system, with 2,700-plus miles of roads (including more than 750 miles of gravel roads). Only the state highway system is larger.

RCOC also maintains:

- ◆ Approximately 90 bridges,
- ◆ Approximately 1,500 traffic signals,
- ◆ Approximately 150,000 traffic signs and
- ◆ More than 230 miles of state highway.

## SAFETY FIRST

As a matter of policy, major road improvement projects are conducted by the Road Commission based on a safety ranking system. At RCOC "Safety First" is more than a motto.



## RCOC:

- ✓ Is separate from county general government and does not receive any revenue from property taxes.
- ✓ Receives the majority of its funding from the state-collected gas tax and vehicle-registration fee.
- ✓ Has congested roads due to the tremendous growth in the county in recent decades.
- ✓ Receives no direct revenue from growth and development.
- ✓ Pays as much as \$3 million or more to pave a mile of gravel road.
- ✓ Pays approx. \$8 million to widen one mile of road from two lanes to five.
- ✓ Is located in a state that has ranked in the bottom 10 states in per capita road funding for 50-plus years.

**ROAD COMMISSION**  
for OAKLAND COUNTY  
31001 Lahser Road · Beverly Hills · MI 48025

## BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS

**RONALD J. FOWKES**

**ANDREA LALONDE**

**NANCY QUARLES**

**Dennis G. Kolar, PE**  
*Managing Director*

**Gary Piotrowicz, PE, PTOE**  
*Deputy Managing Director  
County Highway Engineer*

## RCOC MISSION STATEMENT

RCOC strives to provide the public with leadership in:

- Safe and convenient roads
- Sound financial management
- Responsive and dependable service
- Respect for the environment
- Sensitivity to community concerns

## HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE ROAD COMMISSION?

### CALL OR WRITE:

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
2420 PONTIAC LAKE ROAD  
WATERFORD, MI 48328

TOLL-FREE: (877) 858-4804

TDD: (248) 858-8005

OR, visit RCOC online at  
[www.rcocweb.org](http://www.rcocweb.org)

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**ROAD COMMISSION**  
for OAKLAND COUNTY

# THE HAWK CROSSWALK BEACON



A user's guide:

What is it?

How does it work?

# THE HAWK CROSSWALK BEACON

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) is continuing to install a relatively new form of pedestrian crossing device known as the HAWK, or **H**igh-intensity **A**ctivated cross-**W**alk beacon. The HAWK is typically used at multi-lane roundabouts and mid-block pedestrian crossings of major roads.

## WHAT IS THE HAWK?

The HAWK is a new form of pedestrian crosswalk beacon. It is referred to as a "beacon" rather than a "signal" because it is only lit when it is activated by a pedestrian pushing the crosswalk button.

It has a different configuration than traditional signals, with two red lights next to each other above one yellow light. There is no green light.

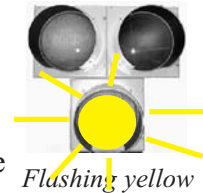
HAWK pedestrian-crosswalk beacons may be used where traffic signals or stop signs are not appropriate, such as at roundabouts.

## A NATIONAL TREND

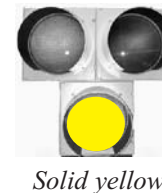
Why is RCOC installing HAWK crosswalk beacons? The Federal Highway Administration is encouraging the use of these beacons as a safe alternative in locations where traditional pedestrian crosswalk signals won't work, such as at roundabouts or where traditional traffic signals would be too disruptive to traffic, such as at mid-block crossings.

## HOW DOES THE HAWK WORK?

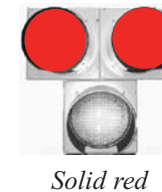
When the pedestrian presses the button, approaching drivers will see a **flashing yellow** light for a few seconds, indicating they should reduce speed and be prepared to stop for a pedestrian in the crosswalk.



The light will then change to a **solid yellow**.

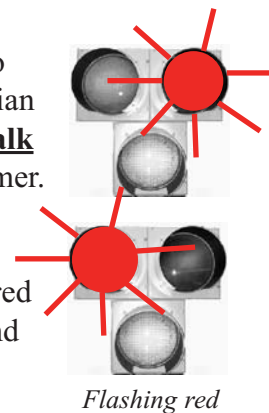


After the solid-yellow phase, the top two lights will turn **solid red**, indicating drivers must stop. When the beacon turns to **solid red**, the signal facing the pedestrian illuminates the **walk** symbol and emits a tone indicating to sight-impaired pedestrians that it is safe to cross.



The signal then changes to **flashing red** and the pedestrian is shown a flashing **don't walk** symbol with a countdown timer.

Drivers are allowed to proceed during the flashing red after coming to a full stop and making sure there is no danger to pedestrians.



## HOW TO USE THE HAWK CROSSWALK BEACON

To cross a road using a HAWK beacon, follow these steps:

- 1.** Use the appropriate pedestrian crossings.
- 2.** Press the push button to activate the HAWK crosswalk beacon (the push button emits a locator tone to aid the sight impaired).
- 3.** Once the HAWK is activated and traffic has stopped, cross the road in the marked crosswalk.
- 4.** If crossing at a location where there is a center island in the road, or at roundabout where there is a diverter island in the center of the road leading into and out of the roundabout, cross to the island and press the push button to activate the HAWK to cross the second half of the road.

**To request more brochures:**  
Contact the RCOC Public Information Office at 248-645-2000, ext. 2202.