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March 21, 2017

RE: Ramsey, Minnesota  
CSAH 83 at Sunwood Drive/147<sup>th</sup>  
Avenue NW Signal System  
Flashing Yellow Arrow  
Considerations  
SEH No. RAMSY 141224

Mr. Bruce Westby, PE  
City Engineer  
City of Ramsey  
7550 Sunwood Drive Northwest  
Ramsey, Minnesota 55303

Dear Mr. Westby:

As requested, we reviewed the intersection of CSAH 83 (Armstrong Boulevard) and Sunwood Drive/147<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northwest with regards to proposed modification of the existing intersection traffic signal left turn operations. Recently, the City has received requests to have flashing yellow arrow operation installed and activated at this intersection. In response to these requests, the City had SEH perform an analysis of the intersection to determine if flashing yellow arrow operation can be utilized here. The analysis would include review of the feasibility, cost, and safety of the intersection for flashing yellow arrow operations. Following is the results of our analysis.

This 4-legged intersection was signalized in January 2013 (prior to when the adjacent Trunk Highway 10-CSAH 83 intersection was reconstructed with an interchange), with protected left turn phasing installed for all approaches. The posted speed limit on CSAH 83 is 55 mph, while both Sunwood Drive and 147<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northwest are posted at 30 mph. The northbound and southbound CSAH 83 approaches and the eastbound 147<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northwest approaches each have a single left turn lane, while the westbound Sunwood Drive approach has a dual left turn lane. Single through lanes and separate right turn lanes exist on the side street approaches, while each CSAH 83 approach has two separate through lanes and a separate right turn lane approaching the intersection. The intersection is located approximately ¼ mile east of the Trunk Highway 10/CSAH 83 interchange area, with a significant east-to-south horizontal curve for northbound CSAH 83 traffic from the interchange area to where a full left turn lane exists for traffic approaching Sunwood Drive/147<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northwest.

SEH obtained peak hour turning movement traffic counts on September 29, 2016, several months after the Trunk Highway 10-CSAH 83 interchange area was opened and area traffic patterns were able to stabilize, in order to properly analyze existing traffic conditions. SEH

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performed AM peak hour (6-9 am), mid-day (11-1 pm), and PM peak hour (3-7 pm) turning movement traffic counts to determine typical weekday traffic patterns at this intersection.

SEH also obtained crash data for the intersection for the 5 year period of 2011-2015 from the State's crash website. SEH then completed a brief field review of the signal system to confirm that the existing traffic signal plans correspond to the current installation of the signal system and take into account the current intersection geometrics. SEH also reviewed traffic signal cabinet components to determine if additional electrical equipment would be required to be provided in order to allow for flashing yellow arrow operation to be used.

As part of the signal system installation, each intersection approach was set up to operate with protected left turn phasing (3-section RLA-YLA-GLA signals). The intersection has a newer Econolite ASC-3 controller unit and Reno MMU-1600-GE conflict monitor, both of which are fully compatible with upgraded left turn (i.e. flashing yellow arrow) operations. The controller cabinet has sufficient load switch bays available to accommodate flashing yellow arrow operations. Thus, the existing controller and cabinet have the capacity and capability to accommodate future flashing yellow arrow operations for all four intersection approaches without requiring this equipment to be significantly upgraded or revised.

As part of our analysis, SEH utilized the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) flashing yellow arrow installation criteria from their "*Traffic Signal Timing and Coordination Manual*" to analyze extended usage of flashing yellow arrow operations for each intersection approach. A copy of this criteria is attached for your information. Based on comparison of available data with the MnDOT criteria, the following can be inferred:

The design of this signal system included the initial recommendation of protected left turn phasing for each intersection approach due to the higher posted speed limit of 55 mph on CSAH 83 (as is typical Anoka County practice) and the presence of a dual left turn lane for the westbound Sunwood Drive approach.

With regards to utilizing Flashing Yellow Arrow operations for each left turn movement, the following should be noted:

- According to the current edition of the *AASHTO Geometric Design of Highways and Streets* manual, left-turning drivers "need sufficient sight distance to decide when it is safe to turn left across the lanes used by opposing traffic." This stopping sight distance along CSAH 83 for the design/posted speed of 55 mph is at least 495 feet of clear sight distance to the north and south. For both Sunwood Drive and 147<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northwest, the recommended stopping sight distance at 30 mph is as least 200 feet to the east and west. Based on a field review of intersection geometrics, the southbound, eastbound, and westbound intersection approaches are straight for several hundred feet in each direction with no impediments to the sight distance (other than possible sun issues for eastbound

traffic in the AM peak hour and for westbound traffic in the PM peak hour during fall-winter months).

For northbound CSAH 83, sight distance is somewhat limited due to a sweeping north-to-west horizontal curve that begins approximately 300 feet north of the intersection. However, there are no impediments to sight distance in the median area and no trees or other topography exist to the north on either side of the roadway that limit sight distance for northbound left turning traffic at the intersection (northbound left turning traffic can see oncoming traffic clearly for at least the minimum stopping sight distance required at the posted 55 mph speed limit).

Based on this information, **available stopping sight distance meets this criteria for each intersection approach.**

- Based on the recent crash history at this intersection, no crashes were reported on the State of Minnesota's crash web site between 2011 and 2015. **Thus, there does not appear to be a safety concern at this intersection with the presence of signalized operation.**
- One of the recommendations from the *MnDOT Traffic Signal Timing and Coordination Manual* is to utilize protected left turn phasing only either for situations where the posted speed limit exceeds 45 mph and the peak hour left turning volume is greater than 240 vehicles per hour, or for when the cross product between left turning traffic volume and opposing through traffic volume exceeds 80,000. With regards to the most recent available traffic counts:
  - a. Between the hours of 4:00 pm-5:00 pm of the most recent traffic counts, westbound Sunwood Drive left turn volumes were near 130 vehicles per hour. No other intersection approach exceeded 65 left turning vehicles per hour during the PM peak period.
  - b. For the midday and AM peak hour counts, no intersection approach had left turning traffic volumes that exceeded 70 vehicles per hour.
  - c. The cross product between left turn traffic volumes and opposing through traffic volumes never exceeded 25,000 for any hour counted in 2016.

Following up against the flashing yellow arrow criteria from the *MnDOT Traffic Signal Timing and Coordination Manual*:

1. Left turn lanes line up well for each intersection approach with sufficient turning room in the intersection so that left turn paths were not conflicting. This was observed specifically for the westbound dual left turn lane/eastbound single left turn

movement, where protected left turn phasing was run together for these movements with no conflicts between either direction's left turn movements. Left turn movements are offset far enough such that no conflicts in left turn paths are occurring.

2. As mentioned, the westbound approach has two left turn lanes. For this approach, the MnDOT Manual suggests that protected operation be utilized during the higher volume periods of the day with Engineering judgment being used to determine if flashing yellow operation could be used for all other times of the day.
3. There are less than 3 opposing lanes of through traffic facing each intersection approach.
4. The intersection does not have a high crash rate and there is no significant history of right angle crashes involving left turning traffic.

In summary, as there is no significant crash history for left turning traffic and traffic volumes are likely lower for the entire intersection (outside of the peak traffic periods), the City should be able to consider using Flashing Yellow Arrow operations at this intersection throughout much of a typical weekday and throughout the weekend. In addition, any changes to the operation of the left turn signal phases are not anticipated to impact overall operations of the intersection in a negative way (and delays for left turning traffic will decrease with flashing yellow arrow operations which will improve the overall operation of the intersection). For peak traffic periods though (and for when sun becomes an issue for eastbound and westbound traffic), protected left turn operation is strongly recommended to be implemented.

Some modifications to the existing signal system installation will be required to revise the operation of this signal system and add flashing yellow arrows for each intersection approach. Both overhead end mounted and far left pole mounted left turn signals for each intersection approach will required having 3-section RLA-YLA-GLA signal heads replaced with 4-section RLA-YLA-FYLA-GLA signal heads. For the westbound approach (due to the dual left turn lane), a 5-foot extension will be required to be added to the mast arm facing this approach so that two 4-section overhead signals can be installed and centered on each left turn lane (requirement that each approaching left turn lane have its own flashing yellow arrow signal centered on each left turn lane). No additional through signal heads will be required to be installed facing any of the four approaches, as there are already separate through (RYG) signal heads centered on each through lane. Some additional cabling (6/c#14) will be required to be installed to operate new flashing yellow arrow signal heads on all four intersection approaches based on a review of the field wiring diagram. No new conduit will be required to be installed to accommodate installation of these new cables.

With regards to left turn lane detection, the *MnDOT Traffic Control Signal Design Manual* recommends that either four loop detectors be installed for proper detection (at 5', 20' 35' and 50' from the stop bar or crosswalk) or that two separately wired loop detectors be installed for

Mr. Bruce Westby, PE

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existing signal system retrofits at 10' and 40' from the stop bar or crosswalk. Recent County practice has been to have the four separate loop detectors installed in each left turn lane in order to be able to operate the left turn lanes on non-lock operation. For this signal system, left turn lane detection was installed at 10' and 40' from the stop bar for the northbound, southbound, and westbound approaches (each wired separately), while the eastbound approach has four loop detectors installed in the left turn lane. To meet current County practice, additional loop detectors will be required to be furnished and installed 25 feet and 55 feet from the stop bar in the northbound and southbound left turn lanes as well as in both westbound left turn lanes (for a total of 8 new loop detectors). No additional 2/c#14 cables or controller cabinet loop detector cards will be required to operate these new loop detectors since existing loop detectors are already wired separately in each left turn lane.

To allow for flashing yellow arrow operation, we estimate that these modifications (completed by an electrical signal contractor) will cost approximately \$40,000. A detailed preliminary engineer's estimate of costs is attached to this letter for your information.

Overall, we do not see any issues with installation and operation of flashing yellow arrows for each intersection approach. However, should the City and County implement flashing yellow arrow modifications to this signal system, **we recommend that the signal system initially operate with protected left turns during both the AM peak period (6:00-9:00 am) and the PM peak period (3:00-7:00 pm) due to higher traffic volumes, higher posted speeds, and the presence of dual left turn lanes through this area.** For all other hours of the day and for all weekend hours, the City and County should be able to consider using flashing yellow arrow operations.

Note that any changes in the operation of this signal system should be monitored by the City and County, including annual review of crash data to ensure that crash frequency does not increase due to modified left turn signal operations.

Please review our analysis and feel free to contact me at 651.490.2073 with any questions or concerns that you may have related to our analysis.

We hope that this information provides you with insight needed to help evaluate and implement the appropriate left turn operations for this intersection.

Sincerely,  
SHORT ELLIOTT HENDRICKSON INC.



John M. Gray, PE  
Project Engineer

Enclosures

c: Jane Rose, Anoka County Highway Department







Estimated Costs and Quantities  
 Revise Signal System (FYA Modifications)  
 CSAH 83 at Sunwood Drive/147th Avenue NW  
 Prepared by JMG (SEH) on March 21, 2017

Item	Estimated Quantity	Estimated Unit Cost	Estimated Total Cost
Remove 3-Section Signals	8	\$300	\$2,400
4-Section Signals (with LED)	9	\$900	\$8,100
5-Foot Extension	1	\$2,500	\$2,500
Strap-on Mid Mast Arm Mount	1	\$1,000	\$1,000
R10-X12 Sign Panels	4	\$500	\$2,000
Controller Cabinet Modifications	1	\$2,000	\$2,000
6 x 6 NMC Loop Detectors	8	\$1,500	\$12,000
6/c#14 Cable (to poles 1, 2, 3, 4)	800'	\$2	\$1,600
EVP detector modifications	1	\$500	\$500
Traffic Control	1	\$2,500	\$2,500
Sub Total			\$34,600
Miscellaneous	approx. 15%		\$5,400
Total Estimated Revise Signal System Costs			\$40,000





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2016 Anoka County Counts  
Armstrong Blvd at Sundown Dr/147th St  
PM Peak  
Ramsey, MN

File Name : 3-CSAH 83 (Armstrong Blvd) at Sundown Drive\_147th Avenue 3PM-7PM.ASF  
Site Code :  
Start Date : 9/29/2016  
Page No : 1

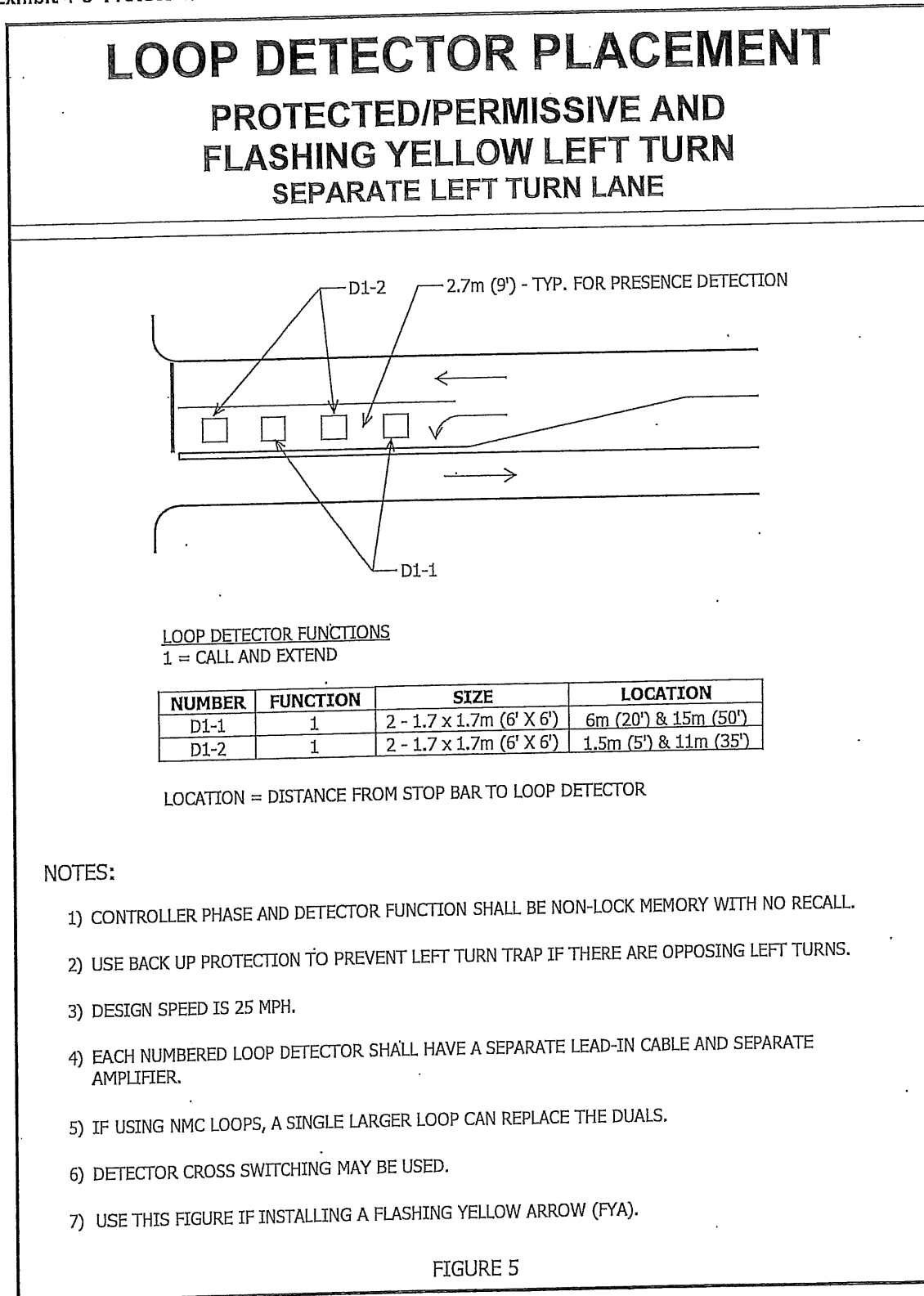
## Groups Printed- Cars +- Trucks

Start Time	Armstrong Blvd From North				Sundown Drive From East				Armstrong Blvd From South				147th Street From West												
	Right	Thru	Left	UTrn	Peds	App. Total	Right	Thru	Left	UTrn	Peds	App. Total	Right	Thru	Left	UTrn	Peds	App. Total	Int. Total						
03:00 PM	0	27	10	0	0	37	23	0	14	0	1	38	29	36	0	1	0	66	0	0	0	0	0	141	
03:15 PM	0	26	16	0	0	42	20	0	24	0	0	44	17	49	1	0	0	67	5	0	0	0	5	158	
03:30 PM	0	47	17	0	0	64	31	0	22	0	0	53	30	57	2	0	1	90	0	0	0	1	1	208	
03:45 PM	0	34	19	0	0	53	26	0	10	0	0	36	41	53	0	2	0	96	1	0	1	0	2	187	
Total	0	134	62	0	0	196	100	0	70	0	1	171	117	195	3	3	1	319	6	0	1	0	1	8	694
04:00 PM	0	46	7	0	0	53	35	0	30	0	0	65	27	54	0	0	0	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	199
04:15 PM	1	29	22	0	0	52	33	0	29	0	0	62	29	58	0	0	0	87	0	0	1	0	0	1	202
04:30 PM	0	52	10	0	0	62	45	0	41	0	0	86	31	65	0	1	1	98	1	0	0	0	0	1	247
04:45 PM	1	33	18	0	0	52	32	1	29	0	0	62	32	73	1	0	0	106	1	0	0	0	0	1	221
Total	2	160	57	0	0	219	145	1	129	0	0	275	119	250	1	1	1	372	2	0	1	0	0	3	869
05:00 PM	2	38	20	0	0	60	47	0	23	0	0	70	35	73	0	1	0	109	4	0	0	0	0	4	243
05:15 PM	0	45	9	0	0	54	37	0	22	0	0	59	36	64	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	213
05:30 PM	0	49	14	0	0	63	34	0	20	0	2	56	26	56	2	0	0	84	1	0	1	0	0	2	205
05:45 PM	1	38	14	0	0	53	26	0	7	0	1	34	31	68	1	2	0	102	0	0	2	0	0	2	191
Total	3	170	57	0	0	230	144	0	72	0	3	219	128	261	3	3	0	395	5	0	3	0	0	8	852
06:00 PM	0	46	15	0	0	61	41	0	17	0	1	59	32	49	1	1	0	83	0	0	1	0	0	1	204
06:15 PM	0	38	16	0	0	54	34	0	19	0	3	56	24	54	0	1	0	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	189
06:30 PM	0	41	12	0	4	57	20	0	21	0	5	46	25	47	0	0	0	72	1	0	0	0	0	1	176
06:45 PM	0	24	17	0	0	41	25	0	13	0	0	38	26	31	0	0	0	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	136
Total	0	149	60	0	4	213	120	0	70	0	9	199	107	181	1	2	0	291	1	0	1	0	0	2	705
Grand Total	5	613	236	0	4	858	509	1	341	0	13	864	471	887	8	9	2	1377	14	0	6	0	1	21	3120
Approach %	0.6	71.4	27.5	0	0.5	58.9	58.9	0.1	39.5	0	1.5	34.2	64.4	64.4	0.6	0.7	0.1	66.7	0	28.6	0	0	4.8	0	0
Total %	0.2	19.6	7.6	0	0.1	27.5	16.3	0	10.9	0	0.4	27.7	15.1	28.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	44.1	0.4	0	0.2	0	0	0.7	0
Cars +	5	602	233	0	0	840	508	1	339	0	2	850	460	866	4	9	1	1340	14	0	6	0	0	20	3050
% Cars +	100	98.2	98.7	0	0	97.9	99.8	100	99.4	0	15.4	98.4	97.7	97.6	50	100	50	97.3	100	0	100	0	0	95.2	97.8
Trucks	0	11	3	0	4	18	1	0	2	0	11	14	11	21	4	0	1	37	0	0	0	0	1	1	70
% Trucks	0	1.8	1.3	0	100	2.1	0.2	0	0.6	0	84.6	1.6	2.3	2.4	50	0	50	2.7	0	0	0	0	100	4.8	2.2

\*\*BREAK\*\*



Exhibit 4-6 Protected Permissive and FYA Left Turn – Separate Left Turn Lane



Metric				US Customary			
Design speed (km/h)	Stopping sight distance (m)	Intersection sight distance		Design speed (mph)	Stopping sight distance (ft)	Intersection sight distance	
		Passenger cars				Passenger cars	
		Calculated (m)	Design (m)			Calculated (ft)	Design (ft)
20	20	30.6	35	15	80	121.3	125
30	35	45.9	50	20	115	161.7	165
40	50	61.2	65	25	155	202.1	205
50	65	76.5	80	30	200	242.6	245
60	85	91.7	95	35	250	283.0	285
70	105	107.0	110	40	305	323.4	325
80	130	122.3	125	45	360	363.8	365
90	160	137.6	140	50	425	404.3	405
100	185	152.9	155	55	495	444.7	445
110	220	168.2	170	60	570	485.1	490
120	250	183.5	185	65	645	525.5	530
130	285	198.8	200	70	730	566.0	570
				75	820	606.4	610
				80	910	646.8	650

Note: Intersection sight distance shown is for a passenger car making a left turn from an undivided highway. For other conditions and design vehicles, the time gap should be adjusted and the sight distance recalculated.

#### Exhibit 9-67. Intersection Sight Distance—Case F—Left Turn from Major Road

If stopping sight distance has been provided continuously along the major road and if sight distance for Case B (stop control) or Case C (yield control) has been provided for each minor-road approach, sight distance will generally be adequate for left turns from the major road. Therefore, no separate check of sight distance for Case F may be needed.

However, at three-leg intersections or driveways located on or near a horizontal curve or crest vertical curve on the major road, the availability of adequate sight distance for left turns from the major road should be checked. In addition, the availability of sight distance for left turns from divided highways should be checked because of the possibility of sight obstructions in the median.

At four-leg intersections on divided highways, opposing vehicles turning left can block a driver's view of oncoming traffic. Exhibit 9-98, presented later in this chapter, illustrates intersection designs that can be used to offset the opposing left-turn lanes and provide left-turning drivers with a better view of oncoming traffic.

**Varying Between Protected, Protected/Permissive, and Permissive Operation**

As discussed above, the FYA can be considered a variable operation signal indication. Consider the following items:

- ✓ All FYA signals may vary operation between protected, protected/permissive, and permissive operation at various times of the day and night.
- ✓ Each signal approach will need to be analyzed individually to determine the time-of-day FYA operation by considering the following criteria:
  - a) Cross-product volumes of left turns and opposing throughs at various times of day
  - b) Speed limit
  - c) Sight distance limitations
  - d) Number of opposing through lanes
  - e) Double left turn lanes or single left turn lanes
  - f) Opposing left turn lane offset
  - g) Cross street or mainline approach
  - h) Comprehensive left turn crash analysis of approaches with similar characteristics

**Test for Protected Only Operation 24 Hours per Day**

In some cases, the left turn indication should run in the most restrictive Protected-Only mode 24 hours per day. Refer to Exhibit 3-13 for the Protected Only Left Turn Operation Guidelines. If the answer to question 1 or 2 is "yes", then protected operation should be used throughout the day.

**Exhibit 3-13 Part 1: Protected-Only Left Turn Operation 24 Hours per Day**

Part 1: Protected Only Operation - 24 hrs/day Guidelines	
<p><b>Question 1: Conflicting Left Turns</b></p> <p>Do the opposing left turn paths conflict?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>&gt; If the answer is Yes, then use Protected Operation 24 hours/day.</p> <p>&gt; If the answer is No, proceed to the next question.</p>
<p><b>Question 2: Limited Sight Distance</b></p> <p>Does the left turner have very limited sight distance as defined in the current AASHTO "A Policy on Geometric Designs of Highways and Streets"?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>&gt; If the answer is Yes, then use Protected Operation 24 hours/day.</p> <p>&gt; If the answer is No, proceed to part 2 to check for FYA by TOD.</p>
<p>&gt; If the Answer is Yes to Question 1 or 2, use Protected Operation 24 hours/day</p> <p>&gt; If the Answer is No to all of the above, proceed to Part 2.</p>	

If the answer is "yes" to any of the questions in Part 1, then Protected-Only operation is suggested throughout the day. If the answer to all of the questions is "no", then proceed to Part 2 (Exhibit 3-14) to check for permissive FYA operation by time of day.

**Test for FYA Operation by Time of Day**

Part 2 (Exhibit 3-14) should be performed for each time of day interval. Typically, the evaluation would be for 4 or more intervals throughout the day (AM Peak, Mid-day Peak, PM Peak and Off Peak). Other intervals can be evaluated as warranted.

For the Cross-Product (Question 6) use the highest hourly cross product during the interval evaluated.

**Exhibit 3-14 Part 2: Permissive FYA Operation by Time of Day**

<b>Part 2: Time of Day Operation of FYA</b>	
_____	Start Time
_____	End Time
<b>Question 3: Number of Left Turn Lanes</b>	
Does the left turn have two (2) or more lanes?	
<input type="radio"/> Yes	> If the answer is Yes, Protected Operation is suggested during the high volume times of the day (use Engineering Judgment if Decision to run FYA by TOD). > If the answer is No, proceed to the next question.
<input type="radio"/> No	
<b>Question 4: Number of Opposing Through Lanes</b>	
Does the left turn face three (3) or more opposing through lanes?	
<input type="radio"/> Yes	> If the answer is Yes, Protected Operation is suggested during the high volume times of the day (use Engineering Judgment if Decision to run FYA by TOD). > If the answer is No, proceed to the next question.
<input type="radio"/> No	
<b>Question 5: Crash History</b>	
Is protected/permissive operation in place and is there a high number of left turn related collisions during this time interval over a 3-year period susceptible to correction by protected only phasing?	
<input type="radio"/> Yes	> If the answer is Yes, Protected Operation is suggested for this TOD. > If the answer is No, proceed to the next question.
<input type="radio"/> No	
<b>Question 6: Speed and Cross Product</b>	
Is the Speed 45 MPH or greater and the Peak Hour left turn volume greater than 240 vph or is the peak hour cross product greater than 80,000 (100,000 if 2 opposing lanes)?	
<input type="radio"/> Yes	> If the answer is Yes, Protected Operation is suggested for this TOD. > If the answer is No, FYA may be possible during this time period.
<input type="radio"/> No	
> If the answer is Yes to all Questions, Protected Only Operation is Suggested during this TOD (use Engineering Judgment if Decision to run FYA by TOD). > If the answer is No to all Questions, FYA may be used during this TOD.	

If the answer to all of the questions in Part 2 are "yes", protected only operation is suggested. Use engineering judgment if a decision to run FYA for the evaluated time period.

Question 6 does include a threshold volume of 240 vph for the subject left turn. However, if the opposing through volume is low, apply engineering judgment to determine if FYA operation could be used even if the left turn volume exceeds 240 vph.

If permissive FYA operation is allowed, protected/permissive operation may be investigated. The decision to use protected/permissive operation should be based on a capacity analysis.

#### Definitions

- ✓ **Protected only left turn operation:** signal phasing that allows left turn movements to only be made on an exclusive phase (green arrow).
- ✓ **Conflicting Left Turn Paths:** At some locations geometric constraints at the intersection cause the paths of opposing left turn vehicles to cross as overlap creating a conflict. An example is an approach that crosses a divided roadway with a wide median. In these locations, it may be necessary to operate the left turns in a lead-lag sequence or a split phase sequence, not allowing simultaneous opposing left turns. This operation will require protected left turns.
- ✓ **Opposing through lane (conflict):** The opposing through lanes are the lanes across from, and in conflict with, the left turning vehicle. Multiple lanes make it difficult for a driver to evaluate gaps in oncoming traffic. An opposing separate right turn lane will typically not be counted with opposing through lanes unless engineering judgment indicates that the lane configuration and number of right turns will cause conflicts with the left turn movement.
- ✓ **Limited Sight Distance (Requirements):** The minimum sight distance values necessary for the design vehicle volume to complete the turn movement. Distance should be calculated from the stop bar for the mainline left turning vehicle. Measurement is based on travel path, speed, and acceleration vehicle height. Both the sight distance for passenger vehicles and trucks should be checked using heights and distance requirements per the AASHTO Geometric Design Guide. The current reference at time this manual was prepared is the 2004 Guide, Chapter 9, Exhibit 9-67).
- ✓ **Dual Left Turn Lanes:** Multiple left turn lanes may consist of exclusive left turn lanes or a combination of exclusive left turn lanes and lanes that are shared by through and left turning traffic. Both the dual lane and the left turn lane opposing this operation are suggested to operate with protected phasing. Left turn lanes without opposing traffic, such as left turns off of a one-way street, does not require protected only phasing based upon this criteria. It might also be possible to run the FYA in permissive mode during low volume times of the day.
- ✓ **Protected/permissive left turn operation:** signal phasing that provides an exclusive phase (green arrow) followed by a permissive phase (flashing yellow arrow), time during the signal cycle where left turning traffic may make a left turn after yielding to oncoming traffic.
- ✓ **Left Turn Related Collisions:** These are Collisions that could be corrected by protected only phasing, such as those between those involving a left turning vehicle and an opposing through vehicle. At higher speeds the accidents collisions are likely to be more severe. Therefore, a lower number of collisions might be used as the parameter for consideration for high-speed approaches. Because of the variations in collisions overtime, an average number of collisions per year over a 3- year period should be used if the data is available.
- ✓ **Speed:** Because it can be difficult for a driver to accurately judge available gaps in traffic approaching at high speeds, the engineer must exercise discretion when considering permissive or protected permissive left turn phasing with opposing speeds of 45 MPH or above.

Use of posted speed limit is recommended. Non-arterial approaches may have lower speeds than the posted speed limit because they are often in a stop condition upon the arrival of traffic. Grades affect the acceleration rate of the left turner and the stopping distance and speed of the opposing through traffic and are therefore considered in conjunction with speeds.

- ✓ **Cross Product:** The left turn volume multiplied by the opposing through volume. The cross product values used are taken from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Traffic Signal Design Manual discussion on left turn conflicts analysis, Chapter 2, Section 3, Subject 4. Cross product used represents a high frequency of conflicts for left turners looking for gaps in through traffic.

### **FYA during Free Operation**

With the variable-phasing operation of the FYA head, free operation will no longer have an assigned fixed phasing operation. Therefore, standard free operation will need to be set up in the signal controller so technicians can put signals quickly to FREE with a standard phasing operation desired at the specific time. Here is an example of the standard FREE operations that will need to be set up in the signal controller:

1. All left turns protected
2. All left turns protected/permissive
3. All left turns permissive
4. Mainline protected, cross street protected permissive
5. Mainline protected, cross street permissive
6. Mainline protected/permissive, cross street protected
7. Mainline protected/permissive, cross street permissive
8. Mainline permissive, cross street protected
9. Mainline permissive, cross street protected/permissive Minimum Green Times

### **Minimum Green Times**

Mn/DOT currently sets the minimum green time based on the type of phasing operation where protected lefts have a 7 second minimum green and protected/permissive lefts have a 5 second minimum green. Given the FYA head is a variable phasing operation head, a decision will need to be made as to if there should be more than one minimum green value that changes with the phasing operation; or if a universal minimum green should apply to all phasing operations.

If one minimum green is used, and if a left turn phase will ever run protected, the left turn minimum green should be set at 7 seconds. If a left turn will never run protected (i.e. only run protected/permissive or permissive), then the left turn minimum green should be set at 5 seconds.

### **EVP Preemption Operation under FYA**

#### **A. Protected-only Operation**

- ✓ When the FYA is not allowed (protected only), the pre-emption will bring up the protected left turn and the adjacent through phase. The opposing FYA will not be allowed during preemption (refer to Exhibit 3-15).