



City of Tacoma

Policy for the Installation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS)

Purpose

The City of Tacoma is committed to ensuring equal access for everyone. Offering information in alternative formats is just one way the City upholds equal access and ensures communication is effective for everyone. Accessible pedestrian signals use a variety of formats to convey information about traffic crossings to pedestrians.

According to the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), an accessible pedestrian signal (APS) is ***“a device that communicates information about pedestrian timing in a nonvisual format such as audible tones, verbal messages, and/or vibrating surfaces.”*** Accessible pedestrian signals are an effective means of communication for people with and without disabilities. They offer information in a variety of formats that is clear and understandable for everyone. Our goal is to ensure that everyone has equal access to all of our programs, services, and activities.

Policy

The City of Tacoma intends to install APS under one of two programs: 1) project-programmed installation, and 2) citizen requests. APS will be installed during new construction and/or alteration projects. New construction and alteration activities will be defined as described below:

New Construction and Alterations

The following examples define new construction and alteration activities and require APS upgrades:

- Whenever installing new signal systems in any location where no previous system existed
- Whenever traffic signal cabling is replaced in its entirety, provided existing underground cable management system is large enough for APS cabling requirements and existing signal control cabinet is large enough to accommodate APS hardware.



- Whenever right of way infrastructure improvements on two or more corners of an existing pedestrian activated signalized intersection occur that require relocation of signal support standards, provided existing underground cable management system is large enough for APS cabling requirements and existing signal control cabinet is large enough to accommodate APS hardware.
- Whenever traffic signal control cabinet is upgraded and existing underground cable management system is large enough to accommodate the APS cabling.

Whenever curb ramps are constructed at an existing pedestrian activated signalized location, conduit, junction boxes, and pedestrian push button poles meeting current standards shall be provided to allow for APS installation.

Maintenance

APS will not be installed when conducting maintenance activities. Examples include:

- replacing failed or damaged equipment such as pedestrian buttons, push button poles, etc
- adding or modifying detection, such as converting from loop to video detectors
- installing safety countermeasures or signs such as red light running cameras
- upgrading select components, such as pedestrian heads, signal heads or controllers

Traffic signals and warning beacons without push buttons do not require APS. This includes non-actuated signals, ramp meters, and flashing beacons which are not actuated by the pedestrian.