

DDOT Experience with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons

The Problem:

- Residents in many neighborhoods across the City complain of difficulty crossing the street safely at crosswalks without traffic signals. Often vehicle speeds are high and adequate gaps to cross are few.
- Safer pedestrian access to schools, libraries, recreational centers, bus stops, and other destinations is an important objective of many communities and DDOT.

Solution to Pedestrian Safety Problem:

- Since 2008, DDOT has installed a new type of crosswalk beacon, called a “Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon,” or RRFB, at several locations to alert drivers approaching the crosswalk that pedestrians are in or about to enter the crosswalk.
- This new beacon features two solar powered pedestrian activated high-intensity amber LED beacons that flash only when a pedestrian needs to cross. The beacons flash in an attention-getting stutter pattern.
- Advance stop lines accompany the RRFB on multi-lane streets. These stop lines promote drivers to stop further back from the crosswalk so that if a driver in the other lane does not stop, the pedestrian can see the approaching vehicle.

Before and After Evaluation Results:

- In the before condition (marked crosswalk & ped warning signs only), 26% of drivers stopped for pedestrians in the crosswalk, and only 41% of vehicles stopped 30 ft. or more from the crosswalk.
- **After 6 months, 80% of drivers stopped for pedestrians in the crosswalk, and 87% of stopping vehicles stopped 30 ft. or more from the crosswalk.**
- After review of testing in DC and in Florida, the RRFB received interim approval from FHWA in July, 2008.



RRFB installed at Brentwood Rd. NE.