

# What you need to know about...



## Permissive / Protective Traffic Signals

### *What is it?*

It is an attempt to reduce trip delay while still providing the traffic signals ability to provide protected turn movements during peak traffic times.

### *How does it work?*

The traffic signals sensors “sees” vehicles through inductive loops of wire in the pavement. During light traffic flows the signal allows motorist to use gaps in the traffic to make left turns. As the number and size of the gaps decrease and the number of left turn movements increase, the signal sees the delays in the traffic occurring and will add a protected left turn phase.

### *How do I know what to do?*

During the “permissive” left turn phase of the cycle, the left turn signal display will show a green ball. When a driver wanting to turn left approaches the intersection, they must watch for oncoming traffic. When traffic has a large enough gap in it to make the turn safely, the driver may proceed with caution. It is important to remember it is the left turn driver’s responsibility to wait until it’s clear before turning.

During the “protected” left turn phase of the cycle, the left turn signal heads will display a left arrow. This indicates to the left turn driver that they may turn left and it is the responsibility of the oncoming driver to stop. Generally this only occurs when there are a large number of vehicles waiting to turn left.

Although the oncoming traffic is required to stop, remember to always use care when you are driving.

The City of Palm Springs, Traffic Management Center is dedicated to providing the residents and visitors of Palm Springs with a safe and efficient traffic management system.

If you have any further questions or comments please feel free to contact us at (760) 323-8253 ext. 5