

Traffic & Safety Advisory

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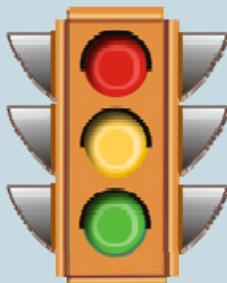
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Guidelines for Reviewing Traffic Signals for Potential Removal

Existing signalized intersections may be identified as potentially no longer meeting warranting criteria for signalization. This makes an intersection no longer eligible for federal funding of modernization of signal equipment. Also, the FHWA is requesting MDOT provide documentation on federal eligibility.

To assist the Region in interacting with local agencies where removals may be indicated a step-by-step process has been developed to be used in the analysis of existing signalized intersections to determine if a traffic signal is warranted. This process only applies to intersections where signalization is already in place and should not be used for installation of a new signal.

The process should be followed completely. A minimum 90 day flash period is necessary to evaluate intersection operations under conditions that simulate permanent traffic signal removal. Data collection of volumes, delay experienced by side street traffic, available gaps in the major street traffic stream and crash patterns at the intersection will be done after the flash period is completed. In order to get a proper evaluation of the intersection, the process must not be prematurely truncated.

Communication with local agency partners is important. They should be fully engaged in the process including potential safety and economic impacts of a signal that no longer meets warranting criteria. Region and TSC personnel should work closely with the local agency partners and the Traffic Signals Section during this entire process.

The process for reviewing signalized intersections for potential removal has been developed as Guidance Document 10200. It can be found on the department's Web site under Policies and Procedures.