

RAPID FLASHING BEACONS

What is a Rapid Flashing Beacon?

A Rapid Flashing Beacon (RFB) is a pedestrian crossing warning sign that includes a pair of bright LED lights mounted on a pole under the pedestrian crossing sign. When a person presses the accessible push button on the sign's pole, the bright yellow LED lights are activated and flash quickly to alert motorists and bicyclists to stop for people waiting to cross.

- An RFB is *not* a traffic signal or pedestrian hybrid beacon with a red solid light requiring traffic to stop.
- An RFB is communication tool used by people trying to cross the street at an uncontrolled crossing to alert traffic on the intersecting street that they are crossing the street.
- City of Grand Rapids ordinances does require vehicle operators to STOP for people crossing in uncontrolled crosswalks (marked or unmarked), including at locations equipped with RFBs.

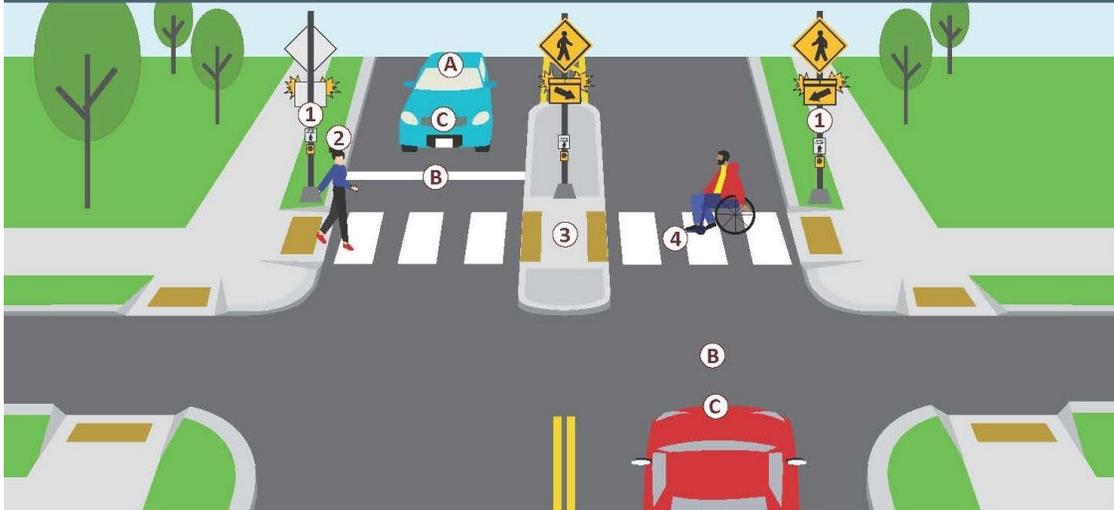


How do RFBs work when you are driving?

- A. LOOK for flashing beacons indicating that people are either in a crosswalk or ready to cross.
- B. RESPOND by preparing to stop.
- C. STOP before the crosswalk and stay stopped until all people have cleared the traffic lane and the lane on either side of the motor lane.
- D. PROCEED with caution after all pedestrians have fully cleared the crossing.

How to use an RRFB

- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon -



How do RFBs work when you are walking?

1. PUSH the button to start the lights flashing.
2. DON'T CROSS UNTIL TRAFFIC HAS STOPPED FOR YOU. Cross with caution.
3. STOP and look before crossing each lane to make sure all motorists and bicyclists have stopped.
4. If there is a median island with another push button, PUSH the button in the median island if motorists and bicyclists are not stopped. REPEAT Step 2 and Step 3.

