Cobb County Department of Transportation is introducing a new left turn signal at various intersections throughout the county - the Flashing Yellow Arrow Traffic Signal.

The flashing yellow arrow is part of a new signal display system that more clearly indicates to drivers when they must yield to make a left turn across traffic.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) research found motorists more clearly understood when to yield before turning left when presented with the flashing yellow arrow as opposed to the traditional solid green light.

The new device consists of four phases: a steady red arrow, a steady yellow arrow, a flashing yellow arrow and a steady green arrow. The flashing yellow arrow indicates to left-turning traffic to first yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians before turning.

- Studies have shown that converting from the traditional signal displays for permissive left turns to the flashing yellow arrow have improved safety and reduced crash rates.

- Intersections with this new device will be monitored for an entire year to review safety and efficiency as part of an initial pilot program.

- Expanded use of this type of light will depend on the effectiveness of the initial pilot project.