



CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

750 LAKESIDE DRIVE SE, EAST GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49506

Policy and Guidelines for the Installation of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons

A. Purpose and Objective

Objectives of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) installations are:

- To increase the visibility and awareness of pedestrians and bicyclists wishing to cross a street.
- To supplement the standard pedestrian crossing signs to increase drivers' awareness and yielding patterns/behaviors.
- To enhance designated uncontrolled midblock crosswalk locations.

B. Conditions for Use/Placement

RRFBs may be considered for use if the conditions for pedestrian crossing pavement markings are met and where the following conditions exist:

- The pedestrian volume is less than 400 pedestrians per hour and greater than 20 pedestrians at any one hour.
- The traffic volume is higher than 1,500 vehicles per day (150 vehicles per hour) and less than 3,000 vehicles per hour.
- For roadways with speed limits of 35-miles-per-hour (mph) and less, the decision chart below (Figure 1) may be used in selecting a good candidate for RRFB installation.
- For additional consideration as determined by a licensed traffic engineer in accordance with criteria and guidelines from MDOT, MMUTCD, FHWA, NACTO, or AASHTO as updated.

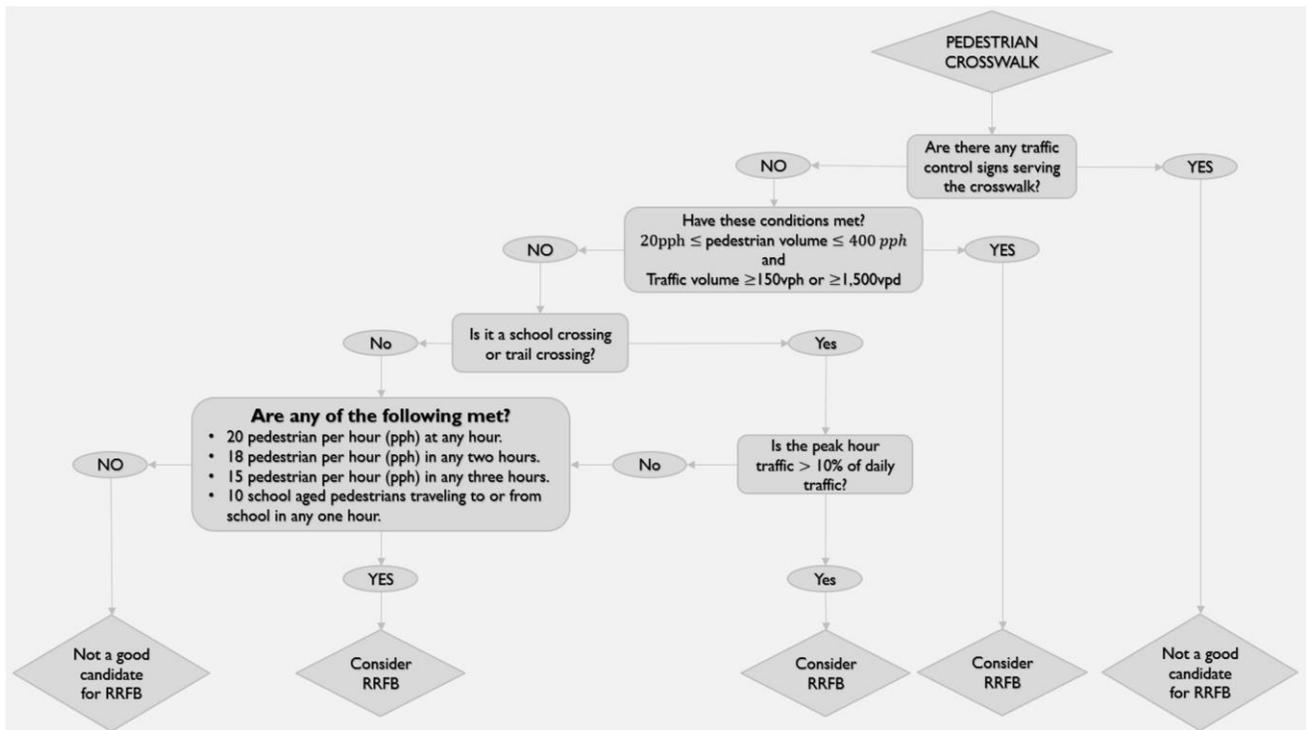


Figure 1: Decision matrix to follow when choosing a good candidate for RRFB installation.
 Note: Each young and elderly pedestrian should be counted twice (i.e. 2X) towards pedestrian volume calculations.

C. Technical Requirements:

The City of East Grand Rapids (City) must agree to comply with the detailed technical conditions for RRFB provided in the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), Chapter 4L, 11th Edition

In summary, the following should be observed when installing RRFBs:

- RRFBs should be installed in the median rather than the far side of the roadway if there is a pedestrian refuge or other type of median.
- Solar-power panels may be used to eliminate the need for a power source.
- Reserve the use of RRFBs for locations with significant pedestrian safety issues, as over-use of RRFB treatments may diminish their effectiveness.
- RRFBs should never be used without a pedestrian, school, or trail crossing warning sign.
- RRFBs should never be used for crosswalks across approaches controlled by YIELD signs, STOP signs, traffic control signals, or pedestrian hybrid beacons, except for the approach or egress from a roundabout or crosswalks across free-flow turn lanes separated by a channelizing island.
- For installation details, see the most recent guidelines by Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Attached are the current installation details from MDOT, dated 2013 (Appendix A).

D. Installation Consideration for Reviewed Locations:

- If criteria are not met, installation consideration will be considered concluded.
- If criteria are met, City Staff will provide associated location, study, and fiscal impact to the Director of Public Works or the City Commission for formal approval. If approved by the Director of Public Works or the City Commission a Traffic Control Order will be issued when installation has concluded.

E. Permanent Removal of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons:

- Subject to ongoing approval, standards, and design by the MUTCD.
- Subject to meeting City of East Grand Rapids RRFB Policy and Guidelines.

Effective Date Approved by the City Commission: February 3, 2025

