



NEWS ADVISORY

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For immediate release

5th/6th/Arthur Accessible Pedestrian Signals among First in State

Recent changes in intersection design, as well as the presence of quiet cars, have made street crossing techniques more difficult for pedestrians who are blind or visually impaired. To address this issue, the State of Montana recently adopted guidelines for signals with improved access for pedestrians who are blind. The new pushbutton-integrated devices found at the intersections of 5th and 6th streets with Arthur Avenue are some of the first Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) to be implemented in Montana. Pedestrians should not be intimidated by the new design. For those not visually impaired, they work the same as traditional push-button signals found around the City of Missoula.

The pushbutton-integrated devices have been well tested in other countries and are recommended by the visually impaired community.

Details include:

- A vibrating tactile arrow indicating when to cross safely as well as the direction of travel in the crosswalk.
- Sounds coming from the pedestrian pushbutton (as opposed to above).
- A quiet push-button locator tone, repeating once per second during the flashing and steady don't walk intervals.

For information about Accessible Pedestrian Signals contact Design Engineer Mark Bancale at WGM Group at 728-4611 or mbancale@wgmgroupp.com.

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