



City of Ketchum

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City Activates HAWK/Scramble Pedestrian Crossings

KETCHUM, Idaho – Construction of the High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) at 4th and Main streets has been completed. The long-awaited launch of the HAWK system and pedestrian scramble crossing at Sun Valley Rd. and Main St. took place on Aug. 17.

Operation of the HAWK and scramble was postponed twice due to the delayed arrival of key equipment.

During this first phase beginning on Aug. 17, both systems will be synchronized. The second phase will include synchronization of the traffic lights on 1st and Main streets and 5th and Main streets to allow for more optimal traffic flow through the four intersections.

HAWK signals are pedestrian-activated traffic control devices that create more spacing between pedestrians and drivers. The system works similar to other pedestrian crossings at signals. Pressing crossing buttons activates flashing lights, signaling vehicles to stop and allowing pedestrians to cross safely.

For a driver, the HAWK signal appears differently than other stop lights. At rest, HAWKs remain dark and drivers continue in route. Once triggered, it will then go through a series of yellow and red sequences requiring motorists to slow down and stop. When the pedestrian phase is complete, the HAWK will go dark again, allowing motorists to continue through the intersection.

The HAWK signal will synchronize with the signal at Sun Valley Rd. and Main St., where the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) will be converting the stop light to a “pedestrian scramble” stop light.

A pedestrian scramble is a redesigned traffic signal that stops all vehicular traffic movements, thereby creating a pedestrian-only phase (or time) for pedestrians to cross the intersection in any direction, including diagonally, at the same time. Pedestrian scramble crossings enhance the safety and mobility of pedestrians, although wait times can be longer. This redesign eliminates the right turn on red that is allowed at most intersections, but enhances the safety of pedestrians in that no vehicles move through the intersection while pedestrians cross.

The HAWK project was funded by the Ketchum Urban Renewal Agency, in partnership with the Idaho Transportation Department.

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About the City of Ketchum

The City of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, mountain biking, fishing, hiking, restaurants, art galleries and shopping. In 2018, Ketchum was awarded designation by the International Dark-Sky Association as a Dark Sky Community and is included in the Nation's first International Dark Sky Reserve, one of only 13 in the world. The City of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade, held on Labor Day weekend, and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the City of Ketchum, visit www.ketchumidaho.org.