NEW PEDESTRIAN

Traffic Mechanism on University Drive

The University community is advised of the new traffic management system in operation at the pedestrian crossing that connects the University of The Bahamas' (UB's) Oakes Field Campus to the Michael H. Eldon Complex on University Drive. UB has been working with the Ministry of Public Works on additional traffic safety measures in the wake of several accidents on the highly-trafficked crossing.

A pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) and pedestrian indicators are now in operation at the pedestrian crossing. The PHB is an overhead crosswalk signal that looks and functions similarly to a traffic signal. Once activated, it gives clear and visible indications to motorists that a pedestrian is seeking to use the crossing. When a pedestrian activates the system by pressing a button, overhead flashing yellow lights alert drivers to an awaiting pedestrian. The flashing yellow light then turns solid yellow, an indication for drivers to make a complete stop. When the light turns red, the pedestrian indicator gives a white "walk" signal, indicating that the person may proceed along the crosswalk if all is clear. A flashing red light appears when the pedestrian countdown starts. When the pedestrian countdown has expired, the beacon goes dark and traffic may continue to flow.

Here is how to use the new traffic instruments:

1.Activate the pedestrian hybrid system by pressing the button on the pedestrian indicator on either side of the crossing. Then wait for vehicular traffic to stop and the "walk" signal to appear.

2. When the system is activated, overhead flashing yellow lights alert drivers to an awaiting pedestrian. This is when drivers should slow down. The flashing yellow light then turns solid yellow, an indication for drivers to make a complete stop. When the overhead light turns red, the pedestrian indicator gives a white "walk" signal.

3. When a pedestrian sees the white "walk" signal on the indicator on the other side of the crossing, he/she may proceed to cross the road if all is clear.

4. To the driver who has been waiting to allow pedestrians to cross, a flashing red light appears when the pedestrian countdown starts. When the pedestrian countdown has expired, the beacon goes dark and drivers may cautiously proceed.

These latest safety measures are in addition to others taken earlier in the year. The first was the installation of rumble strips – a road safety feature that causes a tactile vibration to make drivers more alert – on the roadway in the immediate vicinity of the pedestrian crossing. Then, rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) were added.