

Continuous Flow Intersections

FACT SHEET



Continuous Flow Intersections

A continuous flow intersection, or CFI, is an innovative intersection that allows vehicles to travel more efficiently through an intersection. A CFI enhances safety and increases traffic flow through intersections by allowing left-turning traffic and through-traffic to move simultaneously.

Here's how. Traditional intersections have left-turning traffic in the middle of the road, so through-traffic must wait for those vehicles to turn. A CFI shifts left-turning traffic to the outside edges of the road, which allows through-traffic to move through the middle of an intersection simultaneously, thus increasing the number of vehicles that can make it through the intersection in a single traffic light cycle.



Driving in a Continuous Flow Intersection

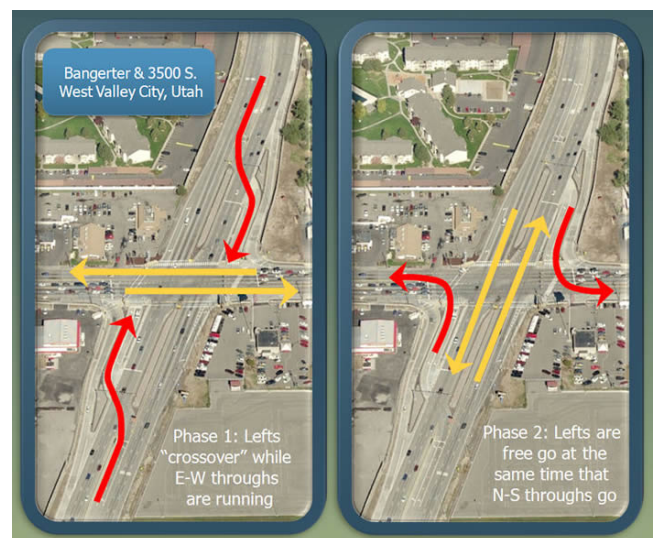
While driving through a continuous flow intersection is different, it is not difficult to understand and navigate once you get used to it. If turning left, drivers will move through a mid-block traffic signal and proceed to the far left side of the road, before making a left-turn at the main intersection. After proceeding through the intersection, left-turning traffic then returns to driving on the right side of the road.

Through-traffic proceeds as it would in a typical intersection. Right-turning traffic uses the right lane or a right-turn lane, like a typical intersection. In some cases, CFI's do not allow right turns on red.

Advantages of a Continuous Flow Intersection

A CFI enhances safety and mobility by reducing potential crash points at intersections, and by allowing more cars to move through an intersection. Because a CFI allows for more efficient movement, this type of intersection can reduce delays and travel time. Other benefits of CFI's include:

- Enhanced safety because of fewer potential crash points
- Improved travel time
- Allows more vehicles to pass through an intersection
- Low cost improvement
- Less right-of-way needed than adding lanes
- Quicker and cheaper to implement, compared with building overpasses or underpasses



Contact Information

For additional information, please contact TxDOT Austin District Public Information Officer Diann Hodges at Diann.Hodges@txdot.gov or 512-832-7027.