

S Hatch Dr and W Buffalo Park Rd Pedestrian Improvements Summary

Please find attached a conceptual layout for the upcoming pedestrian improvements project at S. Hatch Dr. and Buffalo Park Rd. The pedestrian enhancements from Wilmont Elementary School to the Valley View Rd crosswalk are highlighted in yellow. This area is presently undergoing design, with construction slated for completion during the summer of 2024. Additional pedestrian improvements beyond Valley View Rd in green have been identified, with expectations for completion in the coming years. It's important to note that these improvements in green are currently at the conceptual stage and may be subject to changes.

As part of this project, the existing traffic signal on Buffalo Park Road will be removed. This type of traffic signal may only be implemented when there are high enough pedestrian volumes to warrant their use. The Transportation & Engineering Division conducted pedestrian counts in September 2023 and found that the number of students using the crossing was too low to meet the required volume. The County has begun phasing out this type of crosswalk signal at other Jefferson County schools as the infrastructure reaches its end of life.

In lieu of the traffic signal, a Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RRFB) will be installed for the Buffalo Park Road crosswalk at Hatch Drive. RRFBs are used extensively throughout the County to draw drivers' attention to the crosswalk when a pedestrian is crossing. The RRFB has rapid-flashing warning lights that turn on when a pedestrian pushes a button. The warning lights, along with crosswalk signage, striping, and advance signs all serve to increase driver awareness of pedestrians. Relocating the crosswalk closer to the Hatch Drive intersection also provides a safety benefit because drivers are more likely to expect and look for pedestrians at intersections as opposed to mid-block locations.

The RRFB flashing lights are a warning device; drivers do not have to treat the warning lights like a red stop light. We encourage schools and parents to participate in Jeffco's crossing guard program. A crossing guard is able to stop traffic with a hand paddle, allowing student to cross the road safely while vehicles are stopped.