



Florida Department of Transportation Research

Moving the Bus Back into Traffic Safety - Signage and Lighting Configuration

Phase I

BD549-34

When car and other vehicle drivers perform last-minute maneuvers to avoid buses trying to merge into traffic after leaving a bus stop, accidents can occur. These accidents usually do not harm riders on the bus, but can injure the occupants of the other involved vehicles. In addition to personal injuries and vehicle damage, the crashes can result in traffic congestion and disrupted transit schedules.

In 1999, the Florida legislature enacted a Yield to Bus (YTB) law to help reduce the frequency of bus crashes. This law requires that drivers allow buses back into traffic without hindrance. Many communities have created bus pull-out bays, where buses can exit traffic to pick up and discharge passengers safely. In some areas,

signs on buses and near bus stops remind the public to yield to buses.

To determine if additional approaches could be applied to reduce bus-related collisions, researchers at the Center for Urban Transportation Research, University of South Florida, studied the effectiveness of YTB signage and regulations. They also surveyed transit operators about YTB efforts, and analyzed field studies and crash data.

Based on the study, the researchers identified three primary strategies that could further reduce bus-related collisions. The first would be to use flashing LED yield signs on buses.

The survey indicated that a majority of bus operators believe the LED signs are more effective than YTB decals. The second would be to add roadside signage standards to FDOT's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Standardized roadside signage throughout the state would improve public awareness of YTB requirements. The third would be to amend the YTB law to clarify how transit agencies should implement the statutory requirements for signage and event reporting. These enhancements to the YTB program at the state and local levels could improve transit service and safety, while reducing the costs associated with accidents.



Orlando's LYNX transit system uses easy-to-read YTB decals.

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