

June 1, 2018

Re: Memo from the City of Brewer
Engineering Department Regarding
Sign for No Turning on Red Arrow at
Parkway South and Wilson Street

To Whom It May Concern:

We have received many comments, questions, and complaints concerning the sign that was installed in 2017 at the intersection of Parkway South and Wilson Street which prohibits right hand turns on the red arrow coming off of the Parkway South approach. What follows is the reasoning and explanation for the sign installation:

The reason for a red arrow, as opposed to a red ball, for this movement is that when the approach coming from the Rite Aid parking lot has the green light, they have full permitted movement to go right, straight, or left with a green ball and two green arrows. When vehicles are stopped on Parkway South, there is a history of those vehicles only looking at the traffic on Wilson Street before turning and not looking for the traffic coming from Rite Aid, which actually has the right of way in this situation.

The sign is actually not necessary as it is a State law that vehicles are not allowed to turn right on any red arrow, whether or not a sign is present. The sign was installed after many near misses were reported because right turners from Parkway South were not yielding to vehicles exiting Rite Aid on a green light. The sign is merely a reminder to vehicles of what the law is at all intersections with red arrows.

We weren't able to locate the sign in the preferred location on the mast arm because of the equipment that is existing on the mast arm. The sign would need to be next to the traffic signal with the arrow to make sense to oncoming traffic and because of video detection and emergency vehicle detection equipment, along with other existing signage, there was no room to install this sign. Because of the amount of utilities in this busy intersection there was no opportunity to install a post dedicated solely to the sign, so we felt that the best possible place to install the sign was on the back of the existing pedestrian head pole.

It has become apparent from the many calls we have received that many, many drivers do not know that turning on a red arrow, left or right, is never legal. "Right on red" applies only to a stop sign or a red ball, and then only after fully stopping and then yielding to vehicles from all other approaches. Unfortunately, some drivers will learn this the hard way thanks to the Brewer Police Department.

Sincerely,

The City of Brewer Engineering Department