Hawk Signal Timing

According to the state Department of Transportation, the HAWK Signal is in coordination with the adjacent signals. The amount of time someone will have to wait after pushing the button depends on when it's pushed. The range of time they will have to wait changes at different times of day.

These times range from:

- Instant service

- 120 seconds between 6 am. and 10 a.m.

- 115 seconds between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

- 130 seconds between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., the signal will be acting in "free" operation and not be coordinated with the signals along Main Street. The maximum time that would be observed between the end of one walk cycle and the beginning of another (assuming buttons are pushed both times) would be 60 seconds. It could be observed immediately upon pressing of the button if the amount of time passed since the last walk cycle is greater than 60 seconds.

PLEASE NOTE: The timed patterns are the baseline for the traffic signals and the actual time frame of when the lights switch is based on the demand or "call" from the loops that are in the road.

NYSDOT Traffic Signals may consider adjusting the HAWK timing to lessen the time one has to wait for activation after they have a chance to see how it is impacting traffic.

The HAWK signal is part of a greater system which manages the flow of pedestrians and motorists based on a real time "call." At any other intersection pedestrians must wait to cross the road, the HAWK signal is no exception. The HAWK signal cannot change within 10 to 15 seconds because the traffic along Main Street would be backed up every time a pedestrian pushed the button. This would also cause backup through intersections and pose a greater safety risk to motorists and pedestrians at the adjacent intersections.

An analogy: Think of the HAWK signal as a jukebox.

You press the button for your song to play, and your song is added to a queue if there are other songs that should be played first.

In essence, when you press the HAWK button you are also added to a queue; and, the signals will finish the signaled traffic pattern first before moving to your queued request to safely cross the road. Just as a jukebox wouldn't abruptly end a song, the HAWK signal wouldn't abruptly initiate activation without a signaled traffic pattern either being complete or at a point that it could be paused.

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