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## ITE Releases Recommended Practice for Traffic Signal Change and Clearance Intervals

**WASHINGTON, DC** — The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) has issued guidance on yellow change and red clearance intervals for signalized intersections. The recommended practice -- *Guidelines for Determining Traffic Signal Change and Clearance Intervals* -- has been adopted by the ITE International Board of Direction and is now available for purchase. For additional information and to purchase the report, click [here](#).

The goal of the recommended practice is to create a consensus methodology for calculating and evaluating traffic signal change intervals that can be consistently implemented by transportation agencies. The recommendations presented in the report should yield reasonable times for the yellow change and red clearance intervals for traffic signals. These will allow the profession to balance those durations while enhancing intersection safety, maintaining reasonable traffic flow, and providing for movement of vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians.

Jeffrey F. Paniati, P.E., Executive Director and CEO of ITE, said, “The guidelines set forth in the report were carefully considered and analyzed. With input from leading industry professionals and the public, we have produced a set of guidelines based on the best available knowledge and are designed to safely accommodate all users. ITE sought to strike an appropriate balance between theory and practical application.”

### Summary

The report describes the recommended methods to calculate traffic signal change and clearance intervals. The calculation methodology is based on the extended kinematic equation. The report provides guidance for applying the methodology and for selecting

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input values for both through and turning movements at signalized intersections. Input values include perception-reaction time, approach speed, deceleration rate, approach grade, intersection width, vehicle length, and conflicting movement start-up delay. The report notes application techniques for wide intersections and bicycle traffic, and concludes with measures of effectiveness and recommendations for monitoring and evaluation. Note that this report is specifically focused on the timing of traffic signal change intervals and does not address pedestrian signal change intervals or enforcement of red light running.

### **About ITE**

Founded in 1930, ITE is a community of transportation professionals including, transportation engineers, transportation planners, consultants, educators, technologists, and researchers. Through meetings, seminars, publications, and a network of more than 16,000 members working in more than 75 countries, ITE is your source for expertise, knowledge, and ideas. Learn more at [www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org).

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