UC San Diego News Center

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New Traffic Signals Installed on Campus as Part of SuperLoop Transit Project



Photo by Erik Jepsen/UC San Diego Publications

If you've been to the center of campus recently, you have probably noticed some new additions on Gilman Drive. This bustling thoroughfare is now home to four new traffic lights at Scholars Drive/Osler Lane, Library Walk, Myers Drive and Russell Lane.

The Gilman signals, along with another new traffic signal on Voigt Drive on the East Campus, were installed as part of the *SuperLoop* Transit Project, a service developed in partnership with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS). The

SuperLoop provides fast and efficient bus service between North University City and UC San Diego. This is the first in a series of alternative transportation projects that will serve UC San Diego in the near future and support the campus' commitment to sustainability.

"The purpose of the signals is to provide smoother traffic flow for vehicles and bikes on campus, as well as help keep pedestrians safe," said Brian Gregory, associate vice chancellor for strategic campus resource initiatives, whose office is working with SANDAG to oversee the implementation of the lights and signage.

The signals are currently in a test phase, which includes:

- Synchronizing the traffic signals to ensure smooth traffic flow
- Determining appropriate signage along the route to enhance the safety of all vehicle drivers, bike riders and pedestrians
- Refining Library Walk signage and signals to more clearly indicate this is a key pedestrian intersection and extra caution should be exercised

Although the signals are in a test phase, they are operational, which means traffic laws must be obeyed. Vehicle drivers, bike riders and pedestrians should all be aware of the California Vehicle Code rules and regulations that apply to them.

For example, the traffic signal located at Gilman and Library Walk is currently a flashing red signal, which functions in the same way as a stop sign. After making a complete stop, drivers and bicyclists may proceed when it is safe, while observing right-of-way rules.

"I've seen a few instances of drivers doing the 'California rolling stop' at Library Walk," said Gregory, noting the practice of drivers who slow down and roll through intersections rather than stopping as they should. "They need to make a complete stop."

Pedestrians must also obey all traffic laws and use crosswalks at the new signalized intersections. Crossing against pedestrian control signals, or crossing the street between controlled intersections (jaywalking), is also a violation of the California Vehicle Code.

UC San Diego police officers will be enforcing these codes and warning tickets will be issued in an effort to educate pedestrians, drivers and bicyclists.

For more information about the new traffic signals and *SuperLoop* construction on the UC San Diego campus, including a map, please visit the <u>SuperLoop</u> Transit Project webpage.

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