A High Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) signal is a traffic control device used to stop road traffic and allow for protected crossing of pedestrians and cyclists when needed.

Beacons facing vehicular traffic have three sections consisting of two horizontally-arranged circular red sections over a single circular yellow section. The HAWK beacons are dark until activated by a pedestrian/cyclist who wishes to cross. Crossing pedestrians and cyclists are faced with the display of an upraised hand “Don't walk” signal during the time that vehicles have the right of way.

When a pedestrian pushes the button, the HAWK beacon sequence is started, first with flashing yellow followed by steady yellow, then steady red extending for a period of several seconds, and finally by alternating red. The pedestrian signal heads on both ends of the crosswalk display the upraised hand “Don't walk” signal until the HAWK beacons display the steady red signal, at which time, the pedestrian heads display the walking-person “Walk” indication. The pedestrian signals display the flashing "Don't walk" indication, or countdown of seconds when typical pedestrians no longer have enough time to cross before the HAWK beacons release the auto traffic.

At the same time as the flashing "Don't walk" indication, the HAWK beacons display an alternating flashing red indication to vehicles. During this interval, vehicles on the roadway must stop, and may only proceed after yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk. When vehicles have the right-of-way, the pedestrian signal heads go to steady "Don't walk". Then, the HAWK beacons go dark and the pedestrian signal heads remain in the "Don't walk" mode until the HAWK signal is activated by another pedestrian.