This morning, City Staff were notified that the traffic signal on Regents Blvd at Golden Gate/Electron was not functioning properly. City of Fircrest staff, in coordination with the City of Tacoma, were dispatched immediately to assess the issue.

Upon inspection, it was determined that the existing signal controller is failing to properly execute the yellow change interval. Instead of progressing from green to yellow to red, the signal is cycling directly from green to red, creating an abrupt stopping hazard for motorists. This poses a safety risk for both drivers and pedestrians. The current controller and cabinet date back to 1975, making the system outdated and near impossible to maintain.

In the interest of public and pedestrian safety, the intersection has been placed in all-way flashing red control, consistent with the MUTCD (§4D.13 and §4E.02), which requires all approaches to operate as stop-controlled when signal indications are not reliable. At a four-way flashing red signal, all vehicles must stop and yield to those already in the intersection, proceeding only when safe and following the same rules as an all-way stop. Drivers must also yield to pedestrians in marked crosswalks, allowing them to fully cross before entering or moving through the intersection.

Given the condition and age of the system, a full modernization is necessary. The plan is to replace the existing cabinet and signal controls with updated equipment standardized to match other key intersections in Fircrest. In addition to upgrading the signal controls, it is in the City’s best interest to include pedestrian push-button controls for the existing marked crosswalk that connects Alice Peers Park to the Public Safety Building. This improvement will bring the intersection closer to current accessibility and pedestrian safety standards

Best,



[The City of Fircrest Public Works Department](https://www.cityoffircrest.net/government/public-works-department/)

**Tyler Bemis**

Public Works Director

Desk: (253) 238-4134 | [tbemis@cityoffircrest.net](mailto:tbemis@cityoffircrest.net)

Cell: (253) 625-3264