

Location:

Marion County –
Indianapolis, IN

Project size:

519 [R920 RRFBs](#) and
[R829 School Zone
Beacons](#)

Client:

[City of Indianapolis and
Marion County](#)

Distributor:

[Carrier & Gable Inc](#)

Lighting Designer:

[Shrewsberry &
Associates LLC](#)



Photo credit: Betsy Whitmore, Indianapolis Department of Public Works

Overview: Marion County, the most populous county in Indiana, aimed to make school zone signage more visible to motorists. Here, school zone signs warned motorists to drive 25 mph on school days from 7 AM to 4:30 PM. To help ensure safety of children in about 150 public and private schools in the county, the Indianapolis Department of Public Works aimed to find a solution that would also make it easier for drivers to follow the rules.

Requirements: Previously, most schools lacked flashing beacons of any kind, relying on signage alone for driver compliance—which required drivers to scrutinize posted times to determine if they needed to slow down. Indianapolis sought a solution that would eliminate these discrepancies, creating a uniform system that would flash only on school days, while still offering customization for each participating school to accommodate different start, end, and school break times.

Our Solution: Through distributor Carrier & Gable, Carmanah provided over 500 R920 Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) and R829 School Zone Beacons, mostly paid for by a federal highway safety improvement grant. The school zone beacons flash only on days when school is in session, warning drivers to slow to 25 mph for one hour before school starts to one hour after, followed by one-half hour before afternoon dismissal to 1½ hours after.

“The driver doesn’t have to know what day of the week it is and what time it is or if the school is in session or if it’s a holiday,” Department of Public Works spokeswoman Betsy Whitmore told the *Indy Star* in August 2016. She explained the flashing signs save drivers a lot of decision making. If the light is flashing, it means slow down. If it isn’t, drivers can proceed at the regular speed limit.

The RRFBs were also installed at crosswalks for safe mid-block crossing at all times of the day.

Carrier & Gable integrated a cell-based monitoring system, which uses text or email alerts to notify maintenance crews of current or potential issues related to batteries, solar panels, time switches, and power supplies. This helps reduce maintenance visits and ensure each system is working as expected.

[See the news coverage:](#)



Source: <http://cbs4indy.com/>

“As we installed the beacons around schools, the overwhelming response from school leaders was positive. The feedback indicates that some schools have seen a difference in motorists’ habits since the beacons have been installed.”

– Betsy Whitmore, Chief Communications Officer, Indianapolis Department of Public Works