Department of Public Works - Advanced Traffic Management

The Traffic Engineering Division – Advanced Traffic Management Section is responsible for providing safe and efficient movement of traffic throughout the Parish through the optimal use and maintenance of the most appropriate traffic control devices and equipment. It is the goal of this Division to maximize use of the resources while streamlining the procedures providing for the safe and efficient movement of traffic. This Advanced Traffic Management section is Baton Rouge's entry into the world of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). This program started its development in 1978 as a phased deployment.

Presently the total number of maintained traffic signals is four hundred and forty one (441). Housed within this state-of-the-art facility is the network computer equipment and communications systems needed to communicate with not only the eighty-two (82) traffic signals under direct computer control, but eight (8) traffic surveillance cameras, one (1) permanent counting station and twenty-two (22) incident detectors. The incident detectors are side firing radar units capable of differentiating the speeds of vehicles in different lanes. Within the next year, these numbers are expected to double. Shortly, the operation of the Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) and the Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) systems as well as the Motorist Assistance Program (MAP) will also be operated out to this Facility.

Through the use of the Naztec Streetwise software and MIST incident detection software, Baton Rouge Traffic Engineers can stay on top of traffic-related issues and make decisions based on actual information from the traffic signal controller. It is our goal to detect an incident within two minutes of it occurring. Through the use of ITS equipment, the traffic controllers in addition to controlling the sequences of the traffic lights are also communicating any malfunctions as well as the number of cars, which have gone through each intersection. These systems are monitored 12 hours per day with the system running autonomously for the remaining twelve hours. In the event of a problem during the unmanned hours, both of the traffic management systems will page the on duty operator. The on duty System Operator can log into the system via telephone modem and laptop from home and is able to diagnose the problem from there before calling out the appropriate response to the problem. The System Operators have the same functionality at home as they do in the center as they can even do timing changes from remote locations as needed. This allows for precise and cost effective management of the assets during times of emergency when time is critical.

For more information, please contact:

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