

The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's traffic reduction plan moved forward Wednesday with the purchase of nearly \$90,000 worth of equipment.

Aiming to reduce roadway congestion, delays, travel time, fuel usage and air emissions, the Meadowlands Adaptive Signal System for Traffic Reduction project (MASSTR) will re-sync traffic lights at key intersections throughout the 14 towns in NJMC's district. The project is already underway at some local traffic signals.

The commission approved the purchase of \$43,500 in computer equipment and \$46,200 in wall monitors for the project. The twenty wall-mounted monitors will allow for viewing of all the real-time data from the signal system being installed. This part of the project was authorized in December 2011.

Essentially the equipment works as a type of network switch that allows wireless radios mounted on traffic signals in the area to stay connected to the NJMC traffic center servers by way of receivers on the roof, Chief of Transportation David Liebgold told the South Bergenite. Each radio connects to a system tasked with seeing a step in the MASSTR through.

The first phase will entail communications, including the installation of cameras and broadcast equipment at more than 128 traffic signals within the district. The cameras don't serve as red light cameras, which are used for traffic violation enforcement, explained Liebgold.

The next phase will be detection, which will entail measuring the traffic flow and patterns to get more accurate data than the typical actuated timings used by traffic engineers to time signals.

The last step is an adaptive system, using vehicular data collected from the intersections to change the timing of the traffic lights. The coordination will be continuous with operations being monitored and controlled in real-time by the NJMC. According to the MASSTR plan, the project will benefit 400,000 vehicles daily, reduce traffic delays and gas consumption by 1.2 million gallons annually, and therefore reduce 11,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions a year.

While Secaucus is already up and running, North Arlington and Lyndhurst have just entered into the second phase of the project, said Liebgold. The schedule of installation will first target the southwest portion of the Meadowlands region, along with Secaucus's Harmon Meadow shopping center and Westside Avenue in North Bergen, then the northwest section, US Routes 1 and 9 and finally Route 46.

All phases of the project are expected to be completed by spring 2014.

The new equipment is funded through a \$10 million United States Department of Transportation TIGER II grant awarded to the NJMC for the MASSTR project. The equipment is being purchased through Dell Marketing and ePlus Technology Incorporated, both directly contracted with Western States Contract Alliance, which is the state's equipment provider.

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