



Traffic Light Signal Synchronization

Fast Facts



Keeping Orange County Moving



More Green Lights

Traffic signal synchronization allows a series of lights along a street to turn green based on synchronized timers set to current traffic patterns and congestion levels. Signal synchronization is a cost-effective way to reduce overall stops and travel delays.

The synchronization system is usually activated during morning and evening peak traffic hours to allow large groups of vehicles to flow efficiently through several traffic signals and reduce vehicle emissions and air pollution.

Although it is not possible to get a green light at every intersection, traffic light synchronization coordinates signals according to recorded congestion levels, allowing drivers to travel further in less time by reducing stops.

Demonstration Projects

The Orange County Transportation Authority conducted two signal synchronization demonstration projects in preparation for upcoming roadway improvements. The demonstration projects will help refine the existing city-, county- and state-operated traffic signal synchronization systems by establishing coordination among the various systems.

Euclid Street

- Synchronized in fall 2007
- 15 miles; 62 traffic signals
- 6 cities worked together with OCTA and Caltrans
- 20 percent improvement in travel time



Oso Parkway / Pacific Park Drive

- Synchronized in summer 2008
- 8 miles; 34 traffic signals
- 5 cities and an unincorporated area of Orange County worked together with OCTA and Caltrans
- 30 percent improvement in travel time

Demonstration project results are above the expected industry standards of 5 to 15 percent reduction in travel time.

Next Steps

In winter 2008, ten major Orange County roadways were chosen to be synchronized between 2009 and 2011 under the \$8 million

Measure M and state funded Proposition 1B Traffic Light Synchronization Program. The corridors to be synchronized are:

- Alicia Parkway
- Beach Boulevard
- Chapman Avenue
- El Toro Road
- Irvine Center Drive / Moulton Parkway / Golden Lantern
- Orangethorpe Avenue
- Brookhurst Street
- La Palma Avenue
- Yorba Linda Boulevard
- Katella Avenue

Signal Synchronization Master Plan

OCTA began working with Caltrans, the County of Orange and local cities in spring 2008 to develop a master plan for countywide synchronization that will be implemented beginning in 2011. The master plan utilizes an anticipated \$450 million from Renewed Measure M and will synchronize 2,000 signalized intersections, covering over 800 miles of Orange County streets.

For more information

Visit www.octa.net/signal_overview or contact Kristin Johnson, Community Relations Specialist, at (714) 560-5386 or kjohnson@octa.net.