



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

November 1, 2023

AI-Based Traffic Light System to Ease Commute on Route 39

HARRISBURG – While artificial intelligence (AI) is most commonly making headlines today for photo and text manipulation, the technology will soon be applied to a busy corridor of Lower Paxton and Susquehanna townships to adjust the flow of traffic during peak-use times.

Roughly 18,000 motorists use Route 39 each day between Fargreen and Patton roads. When doing so, they encounter 12 traffic signals in that span of just over three miles.

A new traffic-management system from Miovision Surtac Adaptive Signals will be installed to identify vehicles as they approach an intersection, calculate the speed of the vehicles and monitor their trajectory, and adjust the traffic lights' timing accordingly. In addition to monitoring traffic at a particular intersection, the system anticipates traffic flow at the following intersections and makes adjustments there as well. The technology developed by Carnegie Mellon University researcher Stephen Smith aims to reduce traffic jams, while simultaneously reducing greenhouse emissions in the process.

Municipal leaders from Lower Paxton and Susquehanna townships partnered to obtain \$1.2 million from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Traffic Signal Technologies Grant Program to implement the technology debuted in Pittsburgh in 2012.

“This project is an impressive example of local, county and state leaders coming together to improve the day-to-day lives of the people who live and work here,” Dauphin County Commissioners Chairman Mike Pries said. “The system makes special accommodations for ambulances, firetrucks and police vehicles, which is especially important for response times.”

Lower Paxton Township Supervisors Chairman Lowman Henry explained the technology being added to the dozen intersections aims to be more adaptable to inclement weather than other, earlier versions of synchronization systems.

“Our colleagues in Allegheny County have been very pleased with this AI-based system, so we have high hopes it lessens stress for commuters,” Henry said. “By implementing this major traffic signal improvement project, we are not only enhancing the current flow on our much-traveled roads, but also proactively addressing the inevitable challenges of the future as our township continues to grow and develop.”

The system will require installation of adaptive modules and tie-ins to PennDOT's Unified Control and Command Center for remote monitoring. Installation is targeted for late 2024 or early 2025.

"This project does much more than demonstrate how harnessing technology can smooth traffic flow and enhance safety on one of the busiest roads in the county. It shows that anything is possible when municipal neighbors and our county and state partners unite on behalf of those we are all privileged to serve," Susquehanna Township Commissioners President Frank Lynch said.

"We're hopeful this project can be a model for other communities seeking ways to ensure people get to errands and appointments in a timely, safe manner," County Commissioner Chad Saylor said.

"I applaud Lower Paxton and Susquehanna townships for taking the initiative to obtain funding for this important work. Infrastructure projects often don't get the time and attention they deserve, but they affect our day-to-day lives," County Commissioner George P. Hartwick III said.

Minimal traffic disruptions are expected from the work, which will be done on off-peak times and includes installing new traffic control cameras.

The following intersections will be upgraded:

Susquehanna Township

- Route 39 & Fargreen Road
- Route 39 & Deer Path Road
- Route 39 & Crooked Hill Road
- Route 39 & Blue Mountain Commons
- Route 39 & Progress Avenue
- Route 39 & Sturbridge Drive
- Route 39 & Oakhurst Boulevard

Lower Paxton Township

- Route 39 & Crums Mill Road
- Route 39 & Dover Road/Versailles Road
- Route 39 & Forest Hills Drive/Ringneck Road
- Route 39 & Colonial Road
- Route 39 & Patton Road/Woodview Drive

