



Traffic Solutions Consultancy Services

Case Study: Bedford

Bedford Town Centre has a number of dedicated bus lanes and like all town centres is a transport hub for the surrounding area. Bedford Borough Council recognised that a smarter more efficient method of operation was required to better utilise these lanes.

Siemens was commissioned by Amey on behalf of Bedfordshire Borough Council Highways to investigate the application of bus priority on a congested SCOOT region and evaluation of bus gating arrangements and realignment at one of the most problematic points in the network.

The area of interest in this study lies to the South West of the town near Bedford Borough hall where ACIS bus priority is to be deployed via SCOOT MC3 on a number of Urban Traffic Control sites.

The modelling is the first commission to use the recent release of the Siemens UTC to VISSIM link which enables UTC and SCOOT control to be implemented in a VISSIM model.

Bedford Borough Council's existing traffic model for the city centre was readily

adapted to SCOOT control using the VISSIM SCOOT module. Loop detection was added to the model to collect the traffic data required for SCOOT and the bus priority.

Network control including bus priority through SCOOT MC3 was then validated on the model. Using this offline system provides a stable environment for evaluation and planning as to how the strategy can be rolled out on-street.

Option testing was then performed on several Bus Gate proposals within the region. A detailed report of the results including the effect on journey and bus travel times has been delivered to the authority to aide with decision making on this scheme.

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