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## Gloucestershire goes for *Graphos*

Road safety in Gloucestershire is being further improved with the help of Siemens *Graphos* variable warning and speed limit signs. The 'intelligent' traffic signs are capable of displaying variable graphical information and can significantly reduce average travel speeds, simply by reminding drivers of the current speed limit when it is exceeded.

The *Graphos* sign has been introduced along a road used by children walking to a nearby primary school and will display speed limit signs when vehicles are over the limit, or show a crossing warning sign when a button at the pedestrian crossing is activated. According to Brian Watkins, Gloucester's Assistant Traffic Systems Manager, the County Council is pleased with the effectiveness of the sign and has received positive response from the public and parish Council.

Residents were concerned that traffic was travelling too quickly and may not react in time to stop at the crossing which is used by children walking to the nearby primary school. The sign reacts to vehicles travelling at more than the 40mph speed limit and flashes a warning, as a reminder, for them to Slow Down. From when the button on the crossing is pressed the new sign face changes and flashes up a warning to drivers that there is a crossing ahead and the fact that it has been activated. It remains lit whilst the "Wait" and "Green Man" signals to pedestrians are on.

Variable speed limit signs can offer reduced speeds and improved safety at critical periods, for example when many children are entering or leaving school, yet allow higher speeds at other times. Signs can be activated by timed sequence to display required message, speed sensitive, above ground detectors, loop detectors or other trigger input, for example from a nearby traffic controller.

The *Graphos* range of variable warning and speed limit signs has been introduced to help traffic managers reduce the number of motorists speeding, introduce variable speed limit strategies, and collect vehicle data statistics generated by speed violations.

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Using LED technology, the speed-activated signs can be used to display speed limits or hazard warnings in response to high-speed vehicles, and to record the number of times the signs are activated, providing evidence of how effective the sign is at reducing speeding motorists. Alternatively, *Graphos* signs can be used to display different speed limits at certain times, for example outside of schools, as well as collecting vehicle data, validating the introduction of variable speed strategies. With Remote Monitoring from Siemens, *Graphos* signs can collect the complete classification of all vehicles exceeding the speed limit and activating the signs, enabling traffic managers to effectively monitor the operation of the signs and the safety of the road network.

Available in five different sign sizes, *Graphos* enables a wide selection of speed roundel and other graphical symbols to be displayed. The signs can be activated by speed sensitive, above ground detectors, loop detectors or other trigger input, for example from a nearby traffic controller. Automatic luminance control helps to ensure optimum visibility is maintained under all lighting conditions.

*Graphos* is designed to TR2136C and manufactured to the highest standards offering excellent robustness and reliability. Pole mounting installation is via a unique arrangement that offers an easy means to tilt and angle the sign, and an anti-impact location helps to protect the sign from glancing impacts, for example from vehicle wing mirrors.

*Graphos* signs complement a range of LED signs already available from Siemens Traffic for strategic route guidance, urban information systems and real-time passenger information and the company has installed several hundred complete sign systems across the UK and around the world.

### **About Siemens Traffic Controls**

As part of the Siemens Industrial Solutions and Services (I&S) group, Siemens Traffic Controls designs, manufactures, installs and maintains a wide range of traffic engineering products and systems to enhance road safety and improve traffic flow in congested urban and inter-urban areas. In the United Kingdom, the company installs and maintains more traffic infrastructure than any other company and has 700 employees including 350 skilled service engineers dedicated every day of the year to maintaining over half of all traffic control equipment installed on the UK road network. The Siemens Industrial Solutions and Services Group (I&S) is an integrator of systems and solutions for industrial and infrastructure facilities, and global service provider for the plant and projects business covering planning, installation, operation and the entire life cycle.

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