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Norfolk's signals under review by Siemens

In partnership with Norfolk County Council, Siemens Traffic's Design Services division has successfully completed the first 12 months of a 3 year rolling programme of junction and traffic equipment assessments at over 200 sites in Kings Lynn, Norwich and Great Yarmouth.

As part of the Council's ongoing commitment to improving network capacity and safety, the review programme aims to analyse the current and future performance of each site as well as highlight and measure the impact of efficiency and safety improvements.

According to Graham Samways, ITS Engineer representing Norfolk County Council, the review programme is a direct response to guidelines published in the Traffic Management Act. 'The assessments examine both primary and secondary methods of control to ensure that suitable signal timings are in place, and the results of the first phase of the review programme will be used to drive the introduction of improved performance in the following years', he said.

Part 2 of the Traffic Management Act places a network management duty on local authorities to keep traffic flowing. With regard to traffic signals it states that "fixed time traffic signal timings lose some of their effectiveness and should ideally be reviewed every 3 years. Traffic adaptive traffic signals at isolated junctions and adaptive control systems can also lose some of their benefits over time as the network's characteristics and use change. Consequently, the underlying traffic models have to be reviewed".

The review programme studies a range of performance features including the physical layout and markings of intersections, capacity analysis checks, street furniture and age of equipment, and signal timings and phasing. In addition, the assessments calculate and demonstrate the impact of proposed improvements. The forthcoming MCH1606 embraces these concepts and provides performance indicators for when reviewing junctions.

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For Siemens Traffic, Anthony Gent, Regional Design Services Manager said: 'The review programme with Norfolk County Council is an extension of a strong partnership arrangement we have enjoyed over many years as a key supplier of all traffic related services, including UTC/SCOOT consultancy. Siemens is the supply chain partner of May Gurney for the traffic signal equipment installation & maintenance within Norfolk's Strategic Partnership. Siemens are also supplying tailored UTC and SCOOT training for Norfolk's ITS operational staff'.

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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