

23 March 2009

## Addressing the impact of traffic on climate change

According to recent research\* published on 26 February 2009 by Transport Statistics, public attitudes towards the environment and climate change, and the impact of transport has increased further over recent years to become one of the top three most important issues facing Britain. In all, around 80% of adults said that they were very or fairly concerned about the environment and climate change, with a quarter being very concerned. The majority of the public believe that transport emissions contribute to climate change, with around 70% spontaneously selecting emissions from road transport as a cause.

In each survey about twice as many respondents believed that industry and businesses could have a large influence in reducing climate change as believed that the UK Government could have a large influence.

### Willingness to change

Overall, in 2008 three-quarters of all respondents agreed that they would be prepared to change their behaviour to help limit climate change and a similar percentage of respondents who regularly travel by car also indicated their willingness to change behaviour to help limit climate change.

With this in mind, the reduction of queuing traffic and congestion, and maximising of network capacity has always been a key objective of the traffic industry. Siemens continues to be at the forefront of innovative traffic solutions aimed at minimising CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the damaging effects and increasing cost of road congestion. The company's approach to sustainability for the long-term benefit of local authorities, motorists and general public is also highlighted at Traffex 2009 (stand C10), 21-23 April: NEC, Birmingham.

### Traffic Solutions, Siemens Mobility

#### Head of Communications

Peter Preston  
Tel: +44 (0) 1202 782390  
Email: [peter.preston@siemens.com](mailto:peter.preston@siemens.com)

#### PR Account Manager

Julian Gollogly  
Tel: 07770 924441  
Email: [julian.gollogly@ntlworld.com](mailto:julian.gollogly@ntlworld.com)

## **Extra low voltage controllers**

To reduce energy costs and improve safety, many local authorities have already adopted Siemens' highly successful Extra Low Voltage (ELV) intersection controllers and now the company has launched an ELV pedestrian controller. Enabling the implementation of a total ELV policy for all new sites, the new ST750P pedestrian family is certified to TR2500 and provides Pelican, Puffin and Toucan control strategies at both low voltage (230V) and extra-low voltage (48V) drive levels.

According to Keith Manston, Siemens' Head of Product Management, the new ST750P family, which is manufactured at the company's Poole factory, is closely related to the acclaimed ST900 range of high performance traffic controllers and optimised for pedestrian control. 'Not surprisingly, the new ST750P family is also compatible with the whole range of Siemens street furniture, including Helios LED signals, LED nearside signals and LED wait indicators, all offering significant power cost savings over conventional solutions' he said.

'Significantly, the use of ELV provides reduced power and cabling costs as well as improved lamp monitoring of very low power LED traffic and pedestrian signals. ELV also provides increased electrical safety for both members of the public in the event of any damage to the installation and personnel working on or around the intersection.' he added.

The first trial of the ST750 ELV in Poole, a key dual-crossing totally refurbished in the town centre, has already recorded a reduction in energy usage and has been judged a resounding success. As a result, ELV pedestrian controllers are set to become standard for all installations in Poole according to Brian Daveney, Traffic Signal Engineer for Borough of Poole. 'We're extremely impressed with the ELV solution and especially the energy and cost savings it has given us. The ELV initiative forms the basis of the Council's carbon reduction footprint plan which will enable us to be at the forefront of sustainable technology' he said.

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Email: [julian.gollogly@ntlworld.com](mailto:julian.gollogly@ntlworld.com)

## **Reducing carbon footprint**

The significant carbon impact on the environment of existing traffic signalling equipment with traditional incandescent lamps that need regular replacement and consume large amounts of power is also being addressed by Siemens in addition to new extra low voltage solutions.

Enabling existing signals with incandescent lamps to be upgraded to LED technology, Siemens has developed a retrofit option to provide significant power and carbon savings without compromising functionality or infrastructure investment. Easy to install and offering full lamp monitoring compatibility, the low-power retrofit provides a sustainable solution with minimum waste and both high optical brightness and outstanding phantom performance.

For new installations, Siemens Helios signal heads are available already fitted with the latest LED modules which are fully compatible with the latest Siemens controllers.

## **Optimising network performance**

According to the company's Systems Marketing Manager, Mark Bodger, effective network management to minimise congestion and the associated CO2 emission requires a strategic plan which considers both traffic control and information dissemination. Solutions must be expandable and able to adapt to changing technologies to accommodate future growth network usage.

Comet, the advanced traffic management and information system from Siemens, is the key component of a modern traffic control centre with proven benefits in improving situational awareness and reducing operator workload. Developed in conjunction with local authorities to ensure that user requirements are addressed, Comet meets the actual day-to-day challenges and changing need of traffic managers. Evidence of the advantages of using

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Comet as a single solution for integrated network management and traffic control can be seen and discussed at Traffex 2009 on the Siemens stand C10.

Mark Bodger stated, 'Comet allows a wide range of strategic management plans to be generated which can be operated manually or automatically and its modular design and use of UTMC standards allows the system to grow with future network demands.'

*Fuel for thought?* by Mark Bodger, will be one of two interactive sessions presented by Siemens at Traffex 2009 on Tuesday 21 April at 11.00am. The presentation will explore a number solutions aimed at minimising the damaging effects and increasing cost of road congestion, and reinforce the company's approach to sustainability.

### **About Siemens**

Siemens design, manufacture, install and maintain 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 Traffic Solutions business has around 800 employees including approximately 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 **National Statistics Omnibus Survey** is a random probability survey of adults aged 16 and over living in private households in Great Britain. The August 2006 Omnibus Survey interviewed 1,238 adults face-to-face in their own homes (response rate = 67%). The April 2007 survey covered 1,083 adults (response rate = 62%), the August 2007 survey covered 1,170 adults (response rate = 64%), the February 2008 survey covered 1,095 adults (response rate = 60%), and the August 2008 survey covered 1,102 adults (response rate = 60%). The socio-demographic and travel patterns of respondents are similar in each survey. Significant differences over time or between groups which are referred to in the text are statistically significant at the 5% level (i.e. it is 95 per cent certain that the difference exists in the population).

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