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## New traffic controller built into a bench

**A brand new type of traffic controller, the first of its kind to be built by Siemens for Transport for London (TfL), has recently been installed on a trial site in London. The innovative bench design conceals a rack-mounted traffic controller running the adjacent pedestrian crossing for use by unsuspecting shoppers and staff visiting the Westfield shopping centre.**

The concept was created by TfL and manufactured by Siemens with the specific objective to improve the local environment in and around the transport system and enhance the urban streetscape. The project started in 2007 when the contract for the manufacture and installation of the first two bench controllers was awarded to Siemens by TfL and finalised in 2008.

According to Tom MacMorran, the company's Sales and Marketing Director, the new development demonstrates the company's open-minded approach to addressing environmental issues, and the future of junction and street design. 'We worked closely with TfL to deliver an innovative and attractive solution that is both functional for public use and practical for servicing and repair', he said. The bench controller design incorporates an integral scissor lift mechanism which raises the bench top to ensure easy access for maintenance.

With the aim to minimise the impact of traffic technology street furniture in the urban environment, the new design is a bespoke solution with the appropriate layout and accommodation for the lifting mechanism. Improvements to the existing design are currently under consideration with TfL including an electronic lift mechanism, remote access, reduced use of materials and customisation of the housing to accommodate all new traffic equipment.

### Traffic Solutions, Siemens Mobility

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The pedestrian crossing in Westfield is an ideal position for the first trial, a perimeter road used predominately by buses and staff with relatively low vehicle and pedestrian flows. A second bench controller is soon to be installed at the Rockley Road junction on Shepherd Bush Green, a busy area outside the West 12 shopping centre with high pedestrian and traffic flows.

### **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.

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