

## Addressing the impact of traffic signals

**According to a report\* into the operation of traffic lights in the UK published last month for the RAC Foundation, the number of sets of traffic lights has increased across the UK by almost a third in the past decade, in London it is up by almost a quarter. The report by Irving Yass shows that overall, traffic lights deliver benefits, but, if incorrectly sited and managed, then individually they can cause undesirable impediment and frustration.**

A key message coming out of this report is that the impact of lights needs to be continually and rigorously assessed. Irving Yass says technology is already enabling real-time re-phasing of lights to take into account changing circumstances: e.g. varying times of day, accidents, road works, which is a significant improvement that should be built on.

The reduction of queuing traffic and congestion, and maximising of network capacity has always been a key objective of the traffic industry and Siemens continues to be at the forefront of innovative traffic solutions and extensive consultancy services. As market leader in traffic technology across the UK, Poole-based Siemens provides advice and expertise on all disciplines of ITS and traffic management from evaluation and modelling to design implementation and commissioning.

According to Brian Carpenter, Head of Siemens' Design Services, evaluating network performance and measuring the effect of change such as increased traffic flow, new infrastructure and developments requires a versatile and realistic tool set. 'By using microsimulation tools combined with traffic and network management expertise Siemens offers a turn key solution through modelling, design, implementation and on-street validation,' he said.

In the current policy and funding climate it has become more critical than ever to test and prove schemes in a cost effective manner before commitment to project budgets and implementation of network amendments. Using a model for network analysis gives the ability to quickly amend network demands, layouts, and configuration. The tools can readily provide statistical network wide results as well as promote accessibility to a range of audiences through 3D graphics, video outputs and graphic presentation techniques.

The company's consultancy services and innovative approach to traffic technology for the long-term benefit of local authorities, motorists and general public is also highlighted at Traffex 2011 (stand D10), 29-31 March: NEC, Birmingham.

**Notes to editors:**

*\*Every Second Counts*, a report for the RAC Foundation by Irving Yass, into the operation of traffic lights - which were first introduced into the UK in the 1920s - and their impact on congestion and safety. February 2011 © Copyright Royal Automobile Club Foundation for Motoring Limited.

The Royal Automobile Club Foundation for Motoring Limited is a charity which explores the economic, mobility, safety and environmental issues relating to roads and responsible road users. Independent and authoritative research, carried out for the public benefit, is central to the Foundation's activities.

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