



Hit the Green Lights with Signal Optimization

Do you see red when you sit at a traffic signal? Then you should know about signal optimization. In simple terms, optimization means that you spend less time waiting for red lights to turn green.

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**Chittenden County
Metropolitan Planning
Organization**

A Growing Problem

As populations grow and traffic patterns change, signal timings become increasingly outdated. By measuring current patterns and using the data to optimize signals, transportation planners can improve traffic flow, reduce congestion and travel delays, and enhance air quality.

Optimization Challenges

When compared to highway or transit improvement projects, signal optimization is relatively simple and inexpensive. Yet important issues must be resolved before a corridor's signals can be updated. For example, if current traffic data is not available, it must be collected, analyzed, and documented. If a corridor connects several municipalities or includes state-owned intersections, jurisdictional issues must be resolved among local, regional, and state authorities. Also, the services of traffic signal technicians must be budgeted and scheduled.

Moving Forward

The Chittenden County Municipal Planning Organization (CCMPO), working in collaboration with the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, has completed a study of the county's 156 traffic signals and launched a plan to optimize their timings. The first corridor to be optimized will be Dorset Street, and the next will be Route 15 from Burlington to Essex Junction.

Ultimately, the CCMPO's Signal Optimization Plan calls for the optimization of all 156 traffic signals within the county. New studies of traffic patterns will be conducted every four years, and timings will be updated as needed.

About the CCMPO

Established in 1982, the CCMPO is a federally funded but locally controlled agency that plans, prioritizes, and coordinates the use of about \$30 million in annual federal, state, and local transportation funds for Chittenden County and its 18 municipalities. We also solicit and encourage public input in the planning process.

Come attend our public meetings. Share your views on signal optimization and other issues. Get involved in planning. You'll help give the green light to improvements you want in the years ahead.

For more information, please call Susan Smichenko, Senior Transportation Planner, at 802.660.4071 ext. 245