



Memorandum

District of Columbia

Bowie

College Park

Frederick County

Gaithersburg

Greenbelt

Montgomery County

Prince George's County

Rockville

Takoma Park

Alexandria

Arlington County

Fairfax

Fairfax County

Falls Church

Loudoun County

Manassas

Prince William County

To: TPB Technical Committee
 From: Michael J. Farrell, Transportation Planner II
 Date: November 25, 2003
 Subject: Progress on regional traffic signal optimization

Background

At its meeting of July 31, 2002, the Transportation Planning Board adopted a list of TERMS, or Transportation Emissions Reduction Measures. Among those TERMS was a regional signal optimization TERM, which assumed the optimization of an additional 856 traffic signals in the region by 2005. DDOT, MDOT, and VDOT have committed to the implementation of this TERM. As shown in the table below, DDOT committed to optimizing 344 traffic signals, MDOT committed to 240, and VDOT to 272. That commitment is in addition to maintaining signals already optimized as of June, 2002. Moreover, it commits the DOT's in some cases, particularly VDOT's, to provide for the optimization of signals that they do not own or control, since VDOT had no backlog of signals of its own that needed optimization. The chart below shows the status of traffic signal optimization in the two States and the District of Columbia as of June, 2002, as well as the scale of the TERM commitment for each.

State	Number of Signalized Intersections as of June, 2002	Base - Number Optimized as of June, 2002*	TERM Commitment	Base + Commitment
DC	1390	153	344	497
MD	1509	702	240	942
VA	1641	1231	272	1503
Total	4540	2086	856	2942

* Optimized within three years prior to June, 2002

Based on initial reports from the Departments of Transportation, the region is well on its way to fulfilling, and probably over-fulfilling, the TERM commitment of 856 signals. The status of each State's optimization program is summarized below.

District of Columbia

The District of Columbia has committed to optimizing 344 traffic signals as part of the Traffic Signal TERM. As of September 8th DDOT has optimized 400 intersections in its Central Business District, and plans to award a contract in the first quarter of 2004 to optimize all its remaining signals. If all the District of Columbia's signals are optimized by June of 2005, the District will exceed its commitment by 800 signals.

Maryland

The State of Maryland is also on track to meet or exceed its commitment of 240 signals. MDOT has optimized all the signals under its control, which includes 182 signals not optimized as of June, 2002, and is working with Montgomery County to optimize an additional 225 signals under Montgomery County's control. Montgomery County has obtained the same SYNCHRO software that MDOT uses, and will be receiving training. This will allow the Montgomery County to report its optimization results in the same format as the rest of the region.

Virginia

Based on current plans, the State of Virginia will meet its TERM commitment of at least 272 signals by June of 2005.