



City of Inglewood Implements Innovative Traffic Management Plan – Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)

Inglewood, a city with a population of 120,000 encompassing nine square miles, is located in the South Bay region of Southern California on the southern tip of the Los Angeles city limits. The City is a regional transportation hub, which attracts traffic from numerous venues including the Great Western Forum, Hollywood Park Race Track, Hollywood Park Casino, Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), and two major hospitals - Centinela Hospital Medical Center and Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital. With 200 miles of streets, 155 signalized intersections surrounded by four major freeways, Inglewood has always experienced very high daily traffic levels on major arterials. The population of 120,000 persons can swell to nearly 170,000 persons, depending on the activities in its sports venues alone. The City's solution? Implementation of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) elements. Simply stated, ITS is the use of technology to better manage traffic.

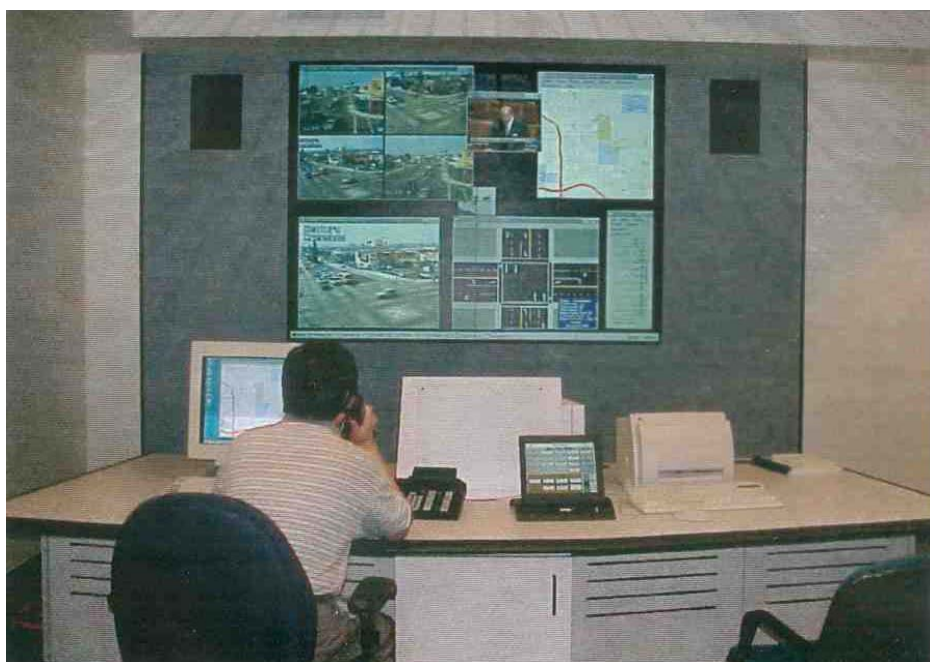
What's the problem?

Due to its important location in the urban flow of Greater Los Angeles, Inglewood is faced with the "big city" challenges of traffic congestion, pollution,

and dealing with its many special events. To solve these and other problems caused by heavy traffic, the City retained the services of the industry leading traffic and ITS consultant, Meyer, Mohaddes Associates, to study the problem and institute a comprehensive set of solutions that includes a state-of-the-art centralized and computerized traffic control system, coupled with a high-speed communications network and electronic monitoring capabilities. When finished, 25,000 feet of fiber optics will be on major thoroughfares citywide!

What has the City done about it?

First, the City determined that it needed instant information about conditions at congested and strategic locations in its boundaries. To accomplish this, they have installed cameras that allow the traffic management staff to monitor traffic conditions without having to go to each location. This instant visual information allows them to improve traffic flow by adjusting signals to respond to each situation, as well as to improve traffic flow for normal daily conditions. Also, the camera information can be provided to the police



City of Inglewood's Traffic Management Center Video Wall

and fire departments during emergency situations, so that they can do their jobs more effectively. Detection cameras will be installed at major intersections to coordinate traffic signals so that travelers can experience a smooth flow of traffic. Instant benefits such as trip reduction, fuel savings, and reduction in emission, etc., can be expected.

Second, the City has installed a high-speed fiber optic communications network along its most important corridors.

This allows the City to link its traffic control and monitoring with other neighboring agencies.

That way, traffic flow is improved both within and around the City through coordination

and interface with adjacent ITS networks in the County of Los Angeles, the City of Los Angeles, LAX, and Caltrans. This linkage will be accomplished through the County of Los Angeles regional communication network.

With the cameras and communications network in place, the City was able to utilize a traffic management center (TMC) as the focal point of efficiency, monitoring and managing the traffic flow on its streets. This facility allows City

staff to devise, initiate, and monitor traffic management strategies with the goal of achieving optimum arterial roadway network performance. A video wall system allows the traffic management staff to see all of the camera images simultaneously and to map conditions throughout the region. This important information can be used to rapidly respond to emergency situations, continuously refine and improve traffic management, coordinate emergency information for police and fire



departments, and provide traffic information to the public.

What's in the future plans of the City?

With the initial monitoring, communications, and traffic management systems in place, the City will be able to expand the systems beyond the present streets to include more critical traffic flow areas in its boundaries. This will involve installation of more cameras and more fiber optic communications. As the system becomes larger and

more comprehensive, this information can be very useful to the traveling public by making traffic condition information available on the Web and communicating this information throughout the City on electronic signs along the roadways. Through careful analysis, planning, and deployment, the City of Inglewood is bringing to its citizens and the traveling public a highly efficient traffic monitoring and management system that will reduce congestion and its resulting pollution, allow the City to better respond to emergency and special conditions as required, and improve the quality of life in Inglewood. In addition, with the establishment of the Inglewood ITS deployment and integration project, individual capabilities of each neighboring jurisdiction can be exploited to the maximum benefit. Furthermore, any technological and institutional efforts for this project will prepare the foundation for the deployment of similar systems in other Los Angeles County transportation corridors.

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