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GDOT'S SMART SIGNALS EASE CONGESTION AND ENHANCE SAFETY AT I-75/SR146 INTERCHANGE IN CATOOSA

RINGGOLD, Ga. - Here is some good news for motorists on I-75 and State Route (SR) 146 in Catoosa County. Traffic on both arterials is moving smoothly and safely. Thanks to the newly deployed smart signals technology, a Georgia DOT traffic signal engineer was able to quickly make a major signal timing change that is improving the flow of traffic in the area.

Georgia DOT had received concerns from the public and the mayor of Fort Oglethorpe that traffic was backing up on the I-75 southbound exit ramp to SR 146. GDOT traffic signal engineer used remote access to the smart signal and a camera at the I-75/SR 146 interchange to tune fine the signal timing from his office in Cartersville.

The signal timing change has allowed the right turn lane traffic from the ramp to move concurrently with the SR 146 eastbound traffic. "This should prevent backup on the I-75 southbound ramp," said Chad Wilkie, district traffic signal engineer at the DOT office in Cartersville.

The smart signal deployment at this location in Catoosa County is part of a statewide project that converts traffic lights in Georgia to an up-to-the-second traffic signal controller technology. "The new software provides significant improvements to how Georgia DOT and local agencies can operate their signal systems," said, Grant Waldrop, district traffic operations engineer in Cartersville.

The proactive response will no longer require engineers to rely on citizen complaints or on-site checking of signals, rather the system will allow for signals to automatically provide feedback to a central system in the Traffic Operations Center in real time. This allows for engineers to focus attention where it is needed.

"We are thrilled to be able to deploy over a thousand smart signals statewide on such a quick timeline and look forward to continued deployment throughout the state," GDOT State Traffic Engineer Andrew Heath said. "The software allows us to understand the performance of each signal by monitoring data that comes in every tenth of a second. Our engineers are able to make

real time adjustments to the signals to optimize performance based on actual roadway conditions.”

This response to operational issues improves signal operations on Georgia’s busiest corridors while also providing transparency to the public on system performance.

Georgia DOT completed the upgrading of the signals at over 1,000 intersections throughout the state in late July. It is aiming at deploying “smart” signals at approximately 9,000 intersections. Approximately 350 smart signals have been deployed at intersections in northwest Georgia.

The software was launched in fall 2015 and is scheduled to be fully deployed on Georgia DOT-maintained signals across the state by fall 2017. The Department is also providing this system to local agencies at no cost, with statewide deployment expected to be complete by 2018.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia’s economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit www.dot.ga.gov. You also may follow us on (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT-Northwest) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/GDOTNW) (<https://twitter.com/GDOTNW>).