

Traffic Signal Operations Forum

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December 14, 2005

Presentation Objectives

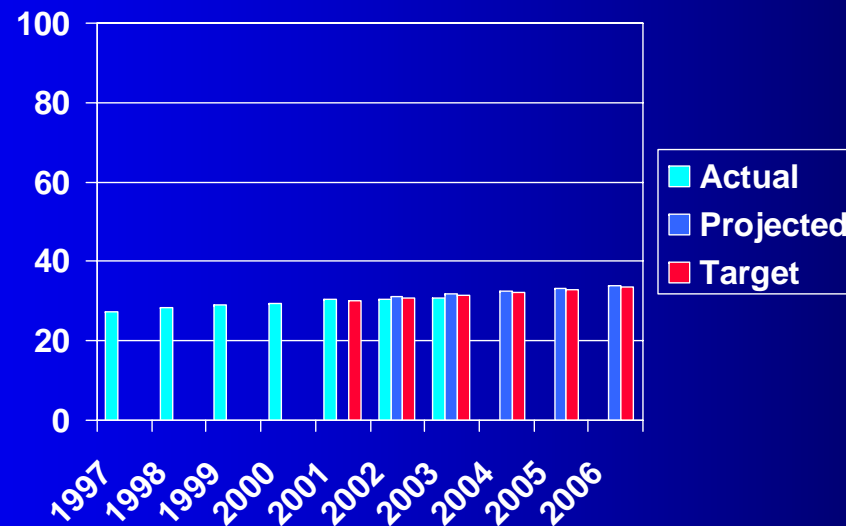
- Congestion – It's Impact?
- Some strategies to reduce congestion
- National Status of Traffic Signalization
- Leadership Challenges

Congestion – It's Impact



Congestion

- The percentage of congested travel nationwide has steadily increased.
 - From 1997 to 2003 it increased from 27.3% to 30.8%



Data from Texas Transportation Institute's 2005 Urban Mobility Report.

Congestion Impacts

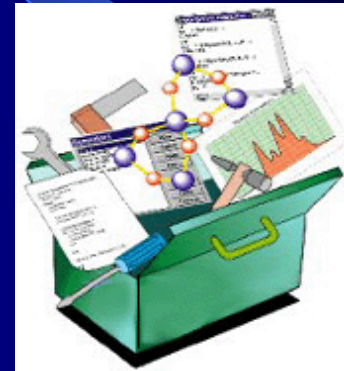
- Economic Impact? (Approximately \$80 Billion/year)
- Environment (air quality)
- Quality of life
- Safety
- Public Perception of Highway Agency

Strategies to Reduce Congestion

- Build new highways
- Reduce Vehicle Travel
- Build a multimodal system
- Incident management/Real Time Information
- Manage existing system efficiently through preservation and enhancement

Traffic Signal System Improvements

- True and tested strategy
- High cost/benefit ratio
- Could measure results



Traffic Signal System Improvement Plan Development

- Develop a self-assessment tool
- Identify current status & demand
- Set vision and goals
- Implement Strategies to fill gaps

What is being done at national level?

- National Transportation Operations Coalition (NTOC)
- Traffic Signal Self-Assessment
 - Distributed in August 2004
 - Performance Measure Benchmarking Tool
 - Agencies completed the self-assessment and submitted it anonymously
 - National Traffic Signal Report Card

National Traffic Signal Report Card: Participation

- Baltimore MPO Region

- 4 Responses

- State

- MDSHA

- Counties

- Baltimore County

- Howard County

- Cities

- Baltimore City

- National Participation

- 378 Responses

- 49 states represented

- 242 cities

- 62 counties

National Traffic Signal Report Card: Results

- Results were released on April 20, 2005

Nationally traffic signals scored D- or 62 on a 0 – 100 scale

– Findings

- Traffic signals are not operating as an efficient, well-integrated system
- Resources spent in a reactive fashion rather than proactively
- Most agencies do not have a signal management plan
- Most agencies do not conduct timing reviews

Leadership Challenge

- Congestion is a real challenge to leadership at all levels
- We must raise the bar
- FHWA Mission:
Enhancing mobility *through Innovation, Leadership, and Public Service*
- USDOT & FHWA Strategic Goal/Vital Few

Thank You!