



Bulletin from Mayor Elaine Scruggs

When we are in a hurry it may seem that every traffic light conspires against us by turning red just as we approach the intersection. In reality, intersections in Glendale are carefully studied so that the signals can be programmed to allow for the most effective and efficient flow of traffic.



Our city's Traffic Engineering and Management staff strives to study 1/3 of all Glendale intersections each year to analyze timing of the traffic signals. Traffic volumes are collected and studies are completed with the goal of safely and efficiently moving traffic along a corridor. Studies of traffic flows sometimes lead to changes in traffic signals. For instance, a recent study of 67th Avenue between Olive Avenue and Greenway Road led to re-timing of signals and the return of the leading left turn arrow as opposed to the lagging left turn arrow.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) is a program that the City has been implementing over the past few years to improve the flow of traffic. ITS allows staff to more efficiently respond to real-time traffic flows and make traffic signal adjustments accordingly. Typically, the traffic signals along a corridor will be connected to a central signal system using fiber optic cables. Monitoring cameras and vehicle count detectors are also an important component of the system.

Currently ITS exists along 59th Ave, Glendale Ave, and on the roads surrounding the Glendale Sports Facilities. In the next month, construction will begin on the ITS system on Bell Road between 51st Ave. and 83rd Ave. Our goal is to eventually establish communications to every traffic signal and have traffic monitoring stations at most major intersections.

Although it may seem that the lights always turn red when we are in a hurry, there is actually a lot of time and work devoted to studying traffic flows and making sure that everyone is able to reach their destinations as quickly and safely as possible.

Thank you taking the time to read my "Glendale Bulletins". Please contact me at (623) 930-2260 or mayorscruggs@glendaleaz.com, if you have any comments or questions. I strive to provide the most timely information and best possible service to you, the citizens of Glendale. I sincerely appreciate your feedback.