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Sept. 27, 2010

\$1.2 MILLION IN GRANTS TO IMPROVE ROADWAY CONGESTION, AIR QUALITY IN GLENDALE

Glendale, Ariz. – The City of Glendale’s 10-year effort to upgrade its traffic-related technology recently received a \$1.2 million boost in federal grants that are awarded to improve air quality and reduce roadway congestion.

The grants, which fund the design phase of five projects, expand on the city’s use of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) for its traffic network. ITS is designed to get the most out of the existing roadway capacity by utilizing technology such as smart traffic signal timing, and automated sign messaging to help drivers avoid upcoming congestion.

The federal government allows local jurisdictions to compete for funding on ITS since it’s proven to not only reduce congestion and travel times, but ultimately improve an area’s air quality.

In the past seven years, Glendale has secured millions in funding to help build its ITS backbone for communications and the traffic management center. Currently, Glendale manages automated traffic control from a centralized traffic management center where some of the equipment is from the pre-digital era. The aged equipment has worked well for remotely controlling 129 signalized intersections out of the 191 signals in the city. However, Glendale’s Transportation Director, Jamsheed Mehta, says, “we must upgrade to the state-of-the-art technology as we continue to expand the transportation communication network.”

(more)

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Already, the city's intersections are connected by 60.5 miles of fiber optic cable and wireless communication devices. The city plans to continue expanding the communications network on arterial streets, but according to Mehta, "we also need to upgrade our control center as we expand ITS , and plan for our future needs before getting into newer technology."

The latest \$1.2 million grant covers several projects:

- The Traffic Management Center's computer hardware, software and video equipment will be replaced with updated technology.
- ITS communication systems will be designed to add 16 existing signals and about seven miles of new fiber optic cable along Greenway, Thunderbird, Cactus, and Peoria to the centralized management center.
- Another project will include designing a dynamic message system for downtown Glendale.

"If the railroad is blocking the intersection at 59th and Glendale, then four electronic message boards on arterial streets leading up to this intersection will provide advance information to the vehicle drivers more than a mile away."

The \$1.2 million awarded to the city will fund the design of these projects. Construction is scheduled for 2012-2013 when additional federal funds are programmed.

For more information on Glendale's transportation projects, visit www.glendaleaz.com/transportation or call 623-930-2940.

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