



TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS

EIS RTMS RADAR SENSORS SUCCESSFUL COMPONENT OF SYSTEM THAT IS DELIVERING ACCURATE TRAVEL TIME INFORMATION TO FDOT DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGNS

At the urging of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) who issued a policy statement in July 2004 recommending the use of Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) to provide accurate and easily understood travel time information to motorists en route, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) rose to the challenge by incorporating the technological resources into their SunGuide™ Software system allowing them the ability to post travel time information on DMSs in two busy areas; Tampa Bay and Jacksonville.

The Process

The SunGuide™ Software was able to collect and compile data from EIS's RTMS™ detector as well as loop detectors and automatically post travel time information on DMSs positioned along the I-275 and I-4 in Tampa Bay (for a total of 18 DMSs) and on the south end of the I-95 in Jacksonville (comprising of 8 DMSs). The Tampa Bay trial took place in May 2007 while the Jacksonville experience occurred in June 2007. The SunGuide™ system would retrieve the information via the web at one-minute intervals and would calculate travel times based on average speeds and distances between roadway sensors. The DMSs would then be automatically updated with the new information.

The Results

To test the accuracy of the DMSs against the actual travel time, ITS staff drove vehicles during free flow travel conditions as well as heavily congested and incident times. **On all occasions, the FDOT concluded that the detectors and the SunGuide™ Software were right on target.**

"It has now been over a month since the DMSs began displaying travel times. We continuously receive compliments from very pleased motorists who check our accuracy on a daily basis and remind us of how great this information is for them. Overall, it has been a terrific learning experience and huge success for our ITS program so we look forward to expanding this information to other DMSs in the near future." Says Pete Vega, D2 ITS Manager.