

SOLAR TRAFFIC CONTROLS

“Wireless” Traffic Control Solutions

APPLICATION: *School Zone Photo Radar Systems*

LOCATION: *City of Mesa, Arizona, U.S.A.*

Description

The City of Mesa, AZ has taken school zone safety to the next level by adding photo radar systems from American Traffic Solutions to an existing school zone with solar flashers.

In March, 2006, the city installed school flashers and driver feedback radar display units at Rhodes Jr. High located along Baseline Road. Baseline Road is an arterial which parallels Superstition Freeway, a major route into the metropolitan Phoenix area. When there are backups during rush hour, commuters sometimes use Baseline Road as an alternative, and drive at near freeway speeds or use dangerous tactics to minimize delays. The posted speed limit on Baseline is 45 mph and drops to 35 mph during school hours.

Since installation of the equipment, studies have shown the average speed of traffic has gone down during the school day. However, data collected from the 3M Driver Feedback (DFB) units shows there are still some vehicles significantly exceeding the speed limit.

School flasher operation is controlled by scheduling software at the city's Traffic Operations Center (TOC). This software sends a paging signal to one of the flashers which serves as the system master. Once the master receives the signal to activate, it sends radio pulses to the other flasher and the two flashers with DFB radar displays. The city requested the photo radar units equipped with a radio interface so all the equipment is active simultaneously.

STC designed an interface panel similar to those in the slave flasher units on site and designed it to fit inside the photo radar enclosure. To allow motorists an opportunity to correct their behavior, a field-adjustable activation delay was included in the interface panel. This delays the start-up of the photo radar thus avoiding complaints from ticketed motorists about "lack of sufficient warning."



Personnel from American Traffic Solutions and STC install the photo radar interface to existing flasher system.

Solar Power: a free source of energy

Our solar-powered systems are designed for quick and easy installation in the field. STC's careful front-end engineering minimizes your installation costs and provides years of trouble-free operation. The standard solar power system includes the solar array, system enclosure with all the necessary electronics, color-coded wiring harnesses, sealed batteries and full documentation. DC LED lamp kits can also be purchased. These include the LED beacon, lamp housing, and mounting hardware.

STC Systems are Cost Effective

Our 24-hour solar flasher systems allow you to stretch your budget to obtain the traffic safety devices you need at affordable prices. Most systems are equivalent to the cost of obtaining an AC power drop. Battery life for these systems is typically three to six years: less expensive than grid electricity for the same period of time.

Solar Traffic Controls (STC) provides solar-powered traffic control systems for city, state and federal DOTs; police, firefighting and public works departments; facility maintenance and plant safety industries. Our primary products are solar-powered flashing beacon systems used for school zones and 24-hour applications. We also supply specialized flasher systems using environmental sensors and custom communications packages to control the flashing beacon systems. Our product spectrum also includes wireless power systems for ITS, EMS and HAR. STC's products and services are sold through a network of regional distributors who offer technical support for your project.



For more information

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