

IDOT Traffic Systems Center (TSC)

IDOT District 1's Traffic Systems Center located in Oak Park initiated the nation's first computerized expressway surveillance system in 1963, followed by the first computer-timed ramp metering signal system in 1964. TSC monitors sensors placed at ½ mile intervals over 153 miles of northeastern Illinois expressways. Sensor data from approximately 2200 vehicle detectors is transmitted to Oak Park where TSC algorithms determine congestion for highway segments and travel times between landmarks with 5 minute updates. The TSC facility has been renovated and the hardware, and software upgraded in 2002. NET Corporation is leading the team to develop the state-of-the-art traffic management system for the TSC. The upgraded system provides the operators with the tools to efficiently monitor and control the performance of system devices. The team includes the University of Illinois at Chicago Artificial Intelligence Lab and TranSmart with Meade Electric leading the physical renovations for the facility.



TSC also monitors CCTV to enhance incident detection at key locations. Traffic data and reports and video are used by the system and TSC staff to determine adjustments to the 113 ramp meters, to drive the automated selection of messages on the 22 dynamic message signs, and to operate the highway advisory radio system. In 1974, IDOT began providing TSC data and reports to radio stations to foster delivery of accurate traffic information to the public. This public-private partnership has matured as traffic reporting has become not only a rush-hour feature but also an all-day necessity. Traffic condition data from the TSC is provided to the GCM Gateway Traveler Information System through the Illinois Gateway Hub and is available at www.gcmtravel.org.

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