



Truck Safety Signal

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS IN THE PORTLAND METROPOLITAN REGION

New approach to traffic signals means fewer trucks run red lights in North Portland.

BENEFITS

Mobility: Fewer red-light conflicts keep traffic moving smoothly.

Safety: Less red-light running reduces crash hazards for trucks and passenger cars.

Cost effectiveness: Small investment yields a great return in saving lives and reducing damage.

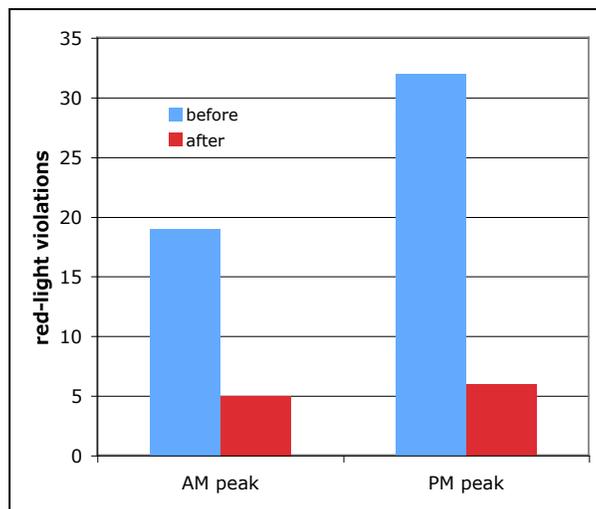
Red-light running is one of the greatest dangers in transportation safety. In contrast to negligence, there are occasions when a driver simply miscalculates the window provided by the yellow light. For a tractor-trailer, which takes much longer to stop than a typical sedan, this is a serious problem, especially on routes that have high truck volumes.



Red-light running is always dangerous, and trucks have more trouble stopping at lights than smaller vehicles.

To address this issue, the City of Portland has installed a combination of devices at the intersection of Columbia and Macrum that detects an approaching truck and, in the appropriate circumstances, extends the yellow light just long enough for the truck to pass before turning red. The installation – the first in a demonstration program – had an immediate impact, as shown in the graph below. During the afternoon peak the day before the system was activated, 32 trucks ran the red light; only 6 did so after activation.

According to Bill Kloos, manager of the Signals and Street Lighting Division of PDOT, “This is a heavily traveled freight corridor where we can do something extremely cost-effective to improve safety. The project has given us an opportunity to demonstrate how this technology works before considering a broader deployment.”



Truck detection on Columbia Boulevard at Macrum reduced red-light running among trucks dramatically the day it was implemented.

For more information, visit www.metro-region.org

