

Study seeks Rt. 72 solutions

■ Project aims for better timing of traffic signals, other improvements.

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Motorists now stuck in traffic on Route 72, north of Lancaster, could be seeing green lights on the horizon.

Changes to retime traffic signals on the congested corridor and coordinate their cycles with nearby lights are being studied by county transportation planners.

Initial changes to 18 intersections on a 3.25-mile stretch between Dillerville Road, in Lancaster City, and Graystone Road, at the northern edge of East Petersburg Borough, could be done in less than a year, said Christopher Neumann, former chief transportation planner for the county and now a consultant.

Although the \$203,400 preliminary engineering evaluation is expected to take at least a year, the signal timing data will be completed earlier.

"If we can actually get signals retimed by the end of the year, we'll be doing well," Neumann said.

Moving forward with the evaluation was recommended this week by the county's Transportation Technical Advisory Committee. It could be approved by the next level, the county's Transportation Coordinating Committee, at its meeting later this month.

An earlier study, released in August recommended that signal timing be changed in all 15 of the intersections initially studied. Planners hope that adjusting the timing of the red and green cycles will allow motorists to move more quickly through the intersections and along the busy road.

The goal of the state's congested corridor improvement program is to reduce congestion by at least 20 percent.

Along with those immediate changes recommended by consulting engineer McCormick-Taylor, that \$90,000 study also recommended short-term improvements to be done in less than three years. Those changes included coordinating the traffic signals and changes such as upgrading the signal equipment and adding turn

Rt. 72

Continued from B1 lanes.

Added to the list of initial intersections are three more along the Route 72 corridor: Steel Way, Dillerville and Flory Mill roads. Fruitville Pike, on the south side of Manheim borough, was also added. Those were included at the request of the Lancaster County Transportation Authority, which is leading the project.

corded. That data will be used to adjust the length of time the signals change from green to red.

Terry Adams, a state Transportation Department program planner, speaking at the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meeting Wednesday, said any timing adjustments will likely be the first the traffic signals have had since they were installed.

"Any update to the timing would be a tremendous, tremendous improvement to the movement of traffic," Adams said.

Adams also called for the engineering firm to work with the municipalities — which own the traffic signals — to prepare applications to PennDOT — which owns the road — in order to make the changes.

"If you go through this study without implementing the changes, you're just wasting time and money," Adams said.

More than \$728,200 has been set aside in the county's Transportation Improvement Plan budget for Route 72 corridor upgrades.

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