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Opticom™ Priority Control System

Application Profile

May 2003

3M™ Opticom™ Priority Control System Passes Tough Independent Test

Rigidly tested by Monroe County, New York, the Opticom system clearly out-performed competitors.

“Everyone at 3M has been very helpful in many ways, and the product works great.”

- Alan MacRobbie, Signal Systems Engineer

System Features and Capabilities Prove Superior

Their consulting firm identified infrared-based priority control systems as the best choice. Then Monroe County developed their own test protocol and check sheets. They painstakingly evaluated each competitor, comparing individual features and performance. Cost was considered important but not the deciding factor.

According to Alan MacRobbie, the Traffic Engineer leading the test, “The Opticom system received the most points on our criteria-based rating system.” He noted that two of the more outstanding features are the dual detector heads and the test capabilities available in the phase selectors. In theory, Opticom works. They wanted to make sure it worked to improve response times and safety.

On-the-Street Response Is 37% Quicker

On August 9, 2002, an emitter-dressed MCDOT sedan was driven gently (25 mph – 35 mph) to simulate an emergency response truck. They ran the route four times along a generally straight road with a rising elevation, a curve and large trees lining the road in several places.

The results	Without Opticom Emitter	With Opticom Emitter
Average time to complete 3.2 mile run	9.08 minutes	5.69 minutes
Average speed	21.15 mph	33.74 mph

Built for the Future

The County is in the process of building a sophisticated traffic management center that may include virtual capabilities. In-house expertise extends to the County’s own Signal Mechanics and Signal Technicians who installed the detectors and phase selectors. The Rochester Fire Department vehicle maintenance staff installed the emitters. And the Control Center staff updates controller timing sheets. With its real-time information management capabilities and friendly Windows® screens, the Opticom system is ready when the Center is.



The County's lab individually tested each Opticom detector and phase selector card destined for nearly 300 intersections.

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**Intelligent Transportation Systems
3M Traffic Control Materials Division**

3M Center, Bldg. 225-5S-08
St. Paul, Minnesota 55144-1000
Customer Service 1-800-553-1380
Technical Service 1-800-258-4610
Worldwide Technical Service 1-651-575-5072
Website www.3M.com/its

3M Canada Company

P.O. Box 5757
London, Ontario, Canada
N6A 4T1
519-451-2500
1-800-3MHELPS

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