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County Roads and Airports Department Receives Awards
Pioneering Projects Recognized Nationally and Internationally

SAN JOSE, CALIF. -- When you are driving on the well-maintained expressways in the county, you may not realize that these County-owned-and-maintained expressways are among the best in the nation and around the world. Today, the County Board of Supervisors accepted a report on the various awards that were granted to the County Roads and Airports Department for its pioneering projects in 2006.

This year, the County Roads and Airports Department has received three awards for its innovative Traffic Signal Re-timing Project and Adaptive Bicycle Signal Timing Project. These international, national and state-level awards include the following:

- The Transportation Achievement Award for Signal Systems from the Institute of Transportation Engineers, an international educational and scientific organization, received in August 2006.
- The 2005 Merit Award from the American Public Works Association, received in June 2006.
- The California Transportation Foundation 2005 TRANNY Award, received in June 2006.

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“These projects contribute to the improvement of the traffic operation and safety,” said Dan Collen, Deputy Director of the Roads and Airports Department. “They also help reduce cost and protect the environment.”

The Traffic Signal Re-timing Project is a pioneering research project that included a study of all expressway intersections. Approximately 24 signal coordination plans were developed and implemented to serve the expressway traffic during peak hours. The Project resulted in estimated cost savings of approximately \$7.8 million in drivers’ time and fuel in the first year alone.

The Adaptive Signal Timing for Bicycles Project installed bicycle loop detectors to increase traffic signal timing to accommodate bicycles. Staff has made presentations of this pioneering use of technology at several technical forums and will make a presentation at the 2007 annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board.

“Our County is playing a leading role in the area of public transportation,” said Supervisor Pete McHugh, Vice Chair of the Board’s Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation (HLUET) Committee. “Although the work of the Roads and Airports staff may not always be visible, we are pleased that residents benefit from these improvements.”

BACKGROUND

The 62-mile County expressway system has served as the backbone of Silicon Valley transportation for the past 40 years. Approximately 1.5 million motorists utilize this system on a daily basis.

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