



Commissioner Steven L. Abrams

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

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News Release

New County System Implements Faster, Safer Response Times for Emergency Responders

Commissioner Steven Abrams announced the county's recent initiative to help emergency rescue vehicles respond more quickly and safely to accident scenes.

The new system will choose the fastest route for the emergency vehicle and communicate the estimated time of arrival to the traffic signals along the route. The system then adds time to the green lights along the route before the emergency rescue vehicle approaches the traffic signal.

In addition, cars ahead of the emergency vehicle proceed through the intersection before the emergency vehicle arrives, providing a less congested path for the rescue vehicle.

"New procedures that decrease emergency response time and save lives is always a priority," said Abrams. "This joint effort between the county's traffic engineers and emergency rescue personnel is commendable," added Abrams.

Fire Rescue developed the software with Intergraph, the Computer Aid Dispatch (CAD) software developer, and Naztec, a traffic signal system software developer. The software, Emergency.new, links the two systems.

The system is currently in place at 40 intersections in west Boynton Beach, west Delray Beach and Jupiter. Full deployment will potentially reach 600 to 650 intersections.

The Board of County Commissioners recently approved funding for a traffic engineering position to oversee the system and work on new adaptive signal systems.

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