

**Subject: DES- Signal Optimization**

**FY 2018 Proposed Budget  
Budget Work Session Follow-up**

**4/5/2017**

The following information is provided in response to a request made by Mr. John Vihstadt for the work session on 3/28/2017: Exactly what does "signal optimization" mean? If someone believes that one or more signals are ill-timed, who should they contact?

Signal optimization involves the allocation of Red/Yellow/Green light time on various intersection approaches at different times of the day, morning/evening peaks, and off-peak, to optimize progression for all modes of transit. The County signal optimization program focuses on reviewing the timing of all traffic signals every three years to optimize the functionality of the signal system. Signal optimization is designed to allow for the ability to progress through multiple intersections with signal which are timed in order to decrease vehicle stops and traffic delays.

In addition to the three-year cycle of reviewing signal optimization, the program also includes the study of new traffic patterns when there is a change in roadway geometry, a change in land use, or a change in transit and pedestrian/bicycle activity along a corridor. Other responsibilities of the signal optimization program include the development and implementation of special signal timing plans for major events such as July 4th, Inauguration, Marine Corps Marathon, and evacuation.

Please contact TE&O (703-228-6511) for any signal timing related inquiries.