

Case Study

Reno Installs Latest In-Road Warning Lights

Background

Golden Valley is a quiet, pedestrian-friendly neighborhood on the northern edge of Reno, Nevada. However, many neighborhood children find their serene walk to school interrupted when they have to brave the crossing at Golden Valley Drive -- a five lane arterial road without any crosswalk warnings beyond standard signs and road markings.

The Problem

In-Road Warning Lights (IRWLs) are durable lighting devices that are installed in the roadway and linked to an activation mechanism. The devices project a bright flashing light towards approaching motorists when activated by pedestrians. Snowfall presents a potential problem for these lights - snow removal efforts can literally rip the lights from the roadway.

The City of Reno had wanted to install IRWLs at Golden Valley Drive for quite some time, but was deterred by concerns over the ability of the IRWLs to withstand encounters with snowplows. Kurt Dietrich, an Associate Civil Engineer with the City of Reno, said that in addition to the snowplow concerns, the city was wary due to its experience with the products of other vendors, which would fill up with sand.



The Solution

In early 2008, Spot Devices unveiled the Road Spot RS320 In-Road Light. Unlike most IRWLs, the RS320 is flush to the roadway surface. "The RS320 is ideal for snowy environments as it is untouched by passing snowplows," said Thomas Burnham, Vice President of Services at Spot Devices. "Pedestrian safety and snowplows no longer need to compete with each other."

Spot Devices installed solar powered RS320 IRWL systems on both sides of the intersection of Beckwourth Street and Golden Valley Drive. The lights provide motorists a valuable warning that pedestrians are crossing the street, and Dietrich says he has found no sand retention.

The Reaction

Both the city and local residents have been thrilled with the results. Rebecca Kapuler, the City of Reno Traffic Safety Advocate, says that she has heard nothing but positive feedback when talking to area residents and students. "The lights are quite noticeable and are clearly visible both day and night." What is more, she says, "working with Spot Devices has been nothing but a positive experience."

"We have future plans to install this product at other location," adds Dietrich.



1455 Kleppe Lane
Sparks, NV 89431
888.520.0008 Toll Free
888.520.0007 Fax
www.spotdevices.com

Arrive Safely