

Case Study

Sacramento County School Crosswalk -- Calendar Activated IRWL Systems

Background

Getting children to and from school is one of the many challenges parents face on a daily basis. The huge line of cars, children running everywhere and the massive rush of the parents make school zones danger zones for pedestrians both young and old.

The Problem

"We had a pretty big issue, especially in the morning," said Richard Nichols, Vice Principal of Mira Loma High School in Sacramento County. "We handle eight buses in addition to over 700 students getting dropped off by their parents." He adds that with the eastbound morning commuters in the mix, traffic at Mira Loma High was chaotic. "We actually had two students hit in the crosswalk prior to the installation of the In Road Warning Lights (IRWLs)." Like many school environments, the site is flooded with pedestrians immediately before and after school, yet it remains virtually dormant during the remaining hours of the day and during school holidays.



The Solution

IRWLs are lighting devices embedded in the pavement at uncontrolled crosswalks that help to alert approaching motorists of crossing pedestrians. While traditionally installed as push button activated systems for pedestrians, Spot Devices systems have the ability to be programmed to continually activate during selected hours of selected days. At the three crosswalks in Sacramento County, Spot Devices provided IRWL systems designed to activate on such a calendar basis.

With a handful of keystrokes on a laptop computer, the Sacramento County Maintenance Department can update the calendar system when peak hours of operation change, such as when schools are closed in summer or have reduced hours during breaks. Nichols is more than happy to point out that students are now safer as they arrive and leave the campus. He credits this increased safety to the installation of IRWLs in the crosswalks in front of the school.

Reaction

"These lights have definitely made our students safer. They are noticeable no matter what the weather is day or night, even from far away," said Nichols. He adds that feedback he has received from parents, teachers, and students has been nothing but positive.

Jose Corona, Sacramento County Traffic and Lighting Supervisor has heard similar feedback from the faculty at Mira Loma High School. "Spot Devices has been great," said Corona. "Their responsiveness and service is fantastic and they have been absolutely wonderful to work with."



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