

# Technology in Rural Transportation



A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective, “low-tech” solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed or implemented by local transportation professionals. One of these solutions is outlined below:

Learn all about the simple solutions on the Internet at <http://inform.enterprise.prog.org>

The simple solutions report is available from Hau To at (503) 892-2533, or email: [to@crc-corp.com](mailto:to@crc-corp.com)

## Cable TV for Signal Coordination

<b>Overall goal:</b>	To control traffic signals and revise timing plans remotely via cable television to address any changes in the traffic flow efficiently and cost effectively.
<b>Technical approach:</b>	Cable television is used to communicate signal timing schemes to 98 percent of the City's on-line signals. The City has two-way communications with signal controllers utilizing the cable company's fiber system. The system allows for readjustment of signal timing for incidents, monitors preemption, and notes any incoming communications from the signal regarding broken signal head or other malfunction. Further, the system provides confirmation that appropriate data has been received and implemented at the signal site.
<b>Current status:</b>	City traffic engineers have been changing signal timing via cable television since 1987. The software for the system has been recently upgraded, but no other changes have been made.
<b>Location / geographic scope:</b>	The cable franchise provides coverage for the City of Richardson, Texas. Also common in other areas of Texas with two way cable communications.
<b>Agencies involved:</b>	Richardson, Texas.
<b>Cost information:</b>	There is no cost involved, the cable company utilizes the City's right-of-way in exchange for fiber service to the traffic signals. Hardware for system is unknown.
<b>Key contacts:</b>	Walter Ragsdale, President of ITS, Texas, (972) 744 - 4322
<b>Have goals been achieved?</b>	Yes, this program has been successful since 1987.



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## Solution timeline:

This project is on-going.

