

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

Pagers Replacing Photo-Cells for Highway Lighting

Overall goal:	The goal of this concept is to reduce the cost of highway lighting.
Technical approach:	The concept involves activating highway lighting using pagers rather than photocells. Researchers calculate savings of between 15 and 30 minutes of lighting per day per circuit, which if applied over a whole network could result in substantial energy savings.
Current status:	Laboratory testing has taken place, and plans were made to install approximately six pilot systems to test in the real environment.
Location / geographic scope:	Testing will take place in Indiana. The concept would be applicable nationwide.
Agencies involved:	Indiana DOT
Cost information:	It is estimated that it would cost approximately \$100 per pager unit and \$5 per month per number for the paging service costs, though one paging number can trigger multiple units. Software to govern the system will also be required - in the case of the pilot testing this is being developed in-house. After testing it was found that the local power company required new meters.
Key contacts:	Jay Wasson, Indiana DOT. (317) 233-9605
Have goals been achieved?	No. After further research on the project it was found to be unfeasible.



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Solution timeline:

Results of testing reveal that system implementation would be too costly due to the expense of installing new meters on all lights.

Solution Status:

DOT could not come to an agreement or partnership arrangement with the private party. This solution, while technically feasible, has not been implemented.

