



MDOT **PRESS RELEASE**

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MDOT's ITS project will save time and lives

May 8, 2009 -- The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), in conjunction with the Kent County Road Commission, will start a comprehensive Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) project this Monday, May 11, covering five cities and over 40 miles. The \$6.7 million project will vastly improve traffic operations resulting in shorter delays, reduced fuel usage, fewer accidents, and better emergency response times. ITS provide real-time data regarding traffic volumes, speed, collisions, and overall traffic flow.

"This is a sign of the times. The new technology enables us to retrieve data like never before," said Grand Region Engineer Roger Safford. "Faster and more accurate information will improve transportation operations resulting in saved lives, money, and time."

The cities of Grand Rapids, Grandville, Kentwood, Walker, and Wyoming will see the integration of 70 microwave vehicle detection systems, 6 dynamic message signs, 40 traffic surveillance cameras, and over 28 miles of fiber-optic cable to support the communications network infrastructure.

Traffic will be maintained by utilizing lane closures and traffic shifts. One lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained at all times. This project will reach Kent and Ottawa counties and is expected to be completed in early 2011.

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MDOT: Working to improve our state roads and bridges.