

Traveller Information System

A type of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) application, Traveller Information Systems presents information to road users typically on incidents ahead, road and lane closures, and recommended routing. Advanced Traveller Information Systems can also address weather and road conditions, and recommended speeds. This information is typically provided through a standard application of dynamic message boards placed alongside the road or above the driving lanes as shown in the examples. The Administration recently completed an ITS Needs Assessment, which identified as a 'gap' the need for a Traveller Information System. As a follow up to the needs assessment, an ITS Strategic Plan is currently being developed and will include a Traveller Information System as a significant component.

There are existing standards and best practices for permanent dynamic message boards in North America. Typically installed above driving lanes or immediately adjacent to the road, the message boards are expected by drivers, are very easy to see and understand, and not cluttered with advertising. They are controlled entirely by the road authority. If commercial billboards are installed within the public ROW, they would be located as far from the driving lanes as possible, which would force people to look away from their direct line of sight. This creates an unsafe condition as drivers are distracted by changing their focus from the road ahead to billboards far from the centre of the road. Comparing this situation with standard permanent dynamic message boards installed overtop of lanes (e.g. on the Stonebridge interchange, or Shaw Centre pedestrian walkway over 22nd Street) does not require a driver to change their focus from the road ahead.

In conjunction with the ITS Strategic Plan project, Transportation has identified six preliminary locations for permanent dynamic message boards that would be part of a larger Traveller Information System. These locations were carefully selected at decision points for drivers. Messages relayed to drivers at these points allow them to make decisions to alter their route, or highlight road conditions ahead. Messages provided at alternate locations on message boards whose primary purpose is for commercial advertising, will not be effective in providing drivers information on routing or road conditions. The six preliminary locations which have been identified as suitable for dynamic message boards are:

1. Highway 11 northbound entering the south end of Saskatoon
 - North of the Vic Boulevard overpass
 - South of the Highway 16/Highway 11 Cloverleaf overpass
2. Highway 16 westbound entering the south end of Saskatoon
 - West of Boychuk Drive
 - East of the Highway 16/Highway 11 Cloverleaf overpass
3. College Drive westbound
 - West of Central Avenue
 - East of the Circle Drive/College Drive overpass

4. Circle Drive East northbound
 - South of the Circle Drive/College Drive overpass
5. 22nd Street West eastbound
 - West of the Shaw Centre pedestrian overpass
 - Ideally mounted to the Shaw Centre pedestrian overpass
6. Idylwyld Drive North southbound
 - North of the 51st Street/Avenue C/Idylwyld Drive overpass
 - South of the Highway 16/Idylwyld Drive overpass

An application was made in early 2017 for Public Transit Infrastructure Funding (PTIF) to install the permanent dynamic message boards at the six locations, but it was not accepted. The Administration is currently considering other potential funding sources.

Examples of Dynamic Message Boards

Overhead application



Roadside application

