



PRESENTATION SURPRISE: The two names leading the Career Award list in September were Director James R. Capaldi, P.E., and Chief Engineer Edmund T. Parker, Jr., each with 35 years of service. To make the presentation a surprise for the Director, and to personally present the award, Governor Donald L. Carcieri, right, attended the ceremony. Looking on are Deputy Director William “Chuck” Alves, and Trooper Jeffrey C. Coleman, who accompanied the Governor.



THERE’S A NEW LOGO for RIDOT Highway & Bridge Maintenance heavy duty trucks. Seeking a friendlier image and promoting pride in the state and its employees, Highway & Bridge Maintenance administration had a new truck logo designed by the Maintenance Sign Shop. This is the logo that you’ll see on plows this winter. Above, Ken Toth from the RIDOT Highway & Bridge Maintenance Portsmouth Facility drives a truck displaying the new logo.

RIDOT surveys users on bike path warning lights

EAST BAY - State Department of Transportation employees braved the late July heat to learn if sensor-triggered warning lights at two intersections on the East Bay Bicycle Path are a help to cyclists and motorists.

The warning systems at Child Street at the bike path and Franklin Street at the bike path were installed last summer by Cross Alert Systems, a Rhode Island company, after a number of accidents. A sensor in the system detects bike path users approaching the intersection and triggers a flashing light alerting motorists.

DOT workers arrived one July morning to monitor what bicyclists and motorists do when they approach the intersections. They also asked bike path users to complete a survey to gauge their understanding of the traffic control devices.

“The signals seem to have some effect on the conflicts pedestrians experience at these intersections,” said DOT senior planner Steven Church.

Barrington resident Larry Trim agrees. Trim rides on the bike path regularly with his son Alex, 8. The signals give him peace of mind because Alex rides in front of him. Alex knows he must stop before crossing the intersections, as motorists have the right of way, but children sometimes forget to look both ways. Trim

“World-class bike trail system”

On RIDOT’s web site, users can fill out a form to request a bike map or make comments. This note came in late July:

Thank you so much for putting time, money, and effort into your world-class bike trail system!

Jim Fuller
Somerville, MA

said the signals keep motorists alert.

“I strongly agree the motorists should look for pedestrians,” he said. “They should be aware.”

Apparently, the signals have had the desired effect.

“I’m noticing the motorists appear to be slowing,” said Church.

He said pedestrians, for the most part, obey the stop signs. Many bicyclists, however, come to a rolling, rather than a full stop. DOT will report its findings to the Federal Highway Administration, which provided \$60,000 in grant funding for the project.

Police Chief Thomas D. Gordon said he has not yet investigated whether there are fewer accidents at the two sites since the system was installed.

Each set of signals costs roughly \$15,000. Cross Alert Systems installed one pair on the South County Bike Path and one on the Coventry Greenway in addition to the two on the East Bay Bike Path in Warren. The signals are now catching on around the country, thanks in part to DOT’s investment. The company was able to test and tweak its product in Rhode Island.

A solar panel powers the motion detector and signal. The company had to change the solar panel on Franklin Street because it was under a tree, so it wasn’t getting enough light.

“We finally put a monster solar panel on that one,” said Cross Alert Systems president Ken Block. Orders are now rolling in from Massachusetts, Louisiana, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, New York and Virginia, he said.

July 28, 2005 story by Alyssa Kneller, reprinted with permission, The East Bay Newspapers’ Warren Times.