

ARTERIAL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES IN HARRIS COUNTY



Eric J. Nelson, P.E.
Harris County Public Infrastructure
Department [Houston, TX]

ITE SUMMER MEETING - COLLEGE STATION, TX - JUNE 24TH, 2006

Presentation Outline

- Standardization of Timing Parameters
- Selection of Cycle Lengths [Harmonic]
- Offset Reference Point / Sync Time
- Tricks for Improving the Flexibility of Coordination Timing
 - Actuated Lagging Left-Turns
 - Use of the Simultaneous Gap Feature
 - Hold Flags at Dual-Coordination Intersections
- Special Logic Conditions (Auxiliary Functions)

Standard Timing Parameters

HARRIS COUNTY TIMING PARAMETERS [SEC]			
TIMING PARAMETERS	LEFT TURN	MINOR THRU	MAJOR THRU
MINIMUM GREEN	3	5	7
PASSAGE TIME	2.0	2.0	4.0
MINIMUM TERMINATE	8	12	12
MAXIMUM GREEN I	20	25	45
MAXIMUM GREEN II	25	35	65
ADDED INITIAL	N/A	N/A	1.5
TIME TO REDUCE	5	5	5
TIME B4 REDUCTION	5 / 10	10	10
MINIMUM GAP	1.0 / 1.5	1.0 / 1.5	3.0
MAXIMUM INITIAL	N/A	N/A	15 / 20

HARRIS COUNTY MAX TIMING FOR LEFT TURNS [SEC]			
LEFT TURN	LIGHT LEFT	MODERATE LEFT	HEAVY LEFT
MAX I	20	25	25
MAX II	25	35	45

HARRIS COUNTY MAX TIMING FOR THRU MOVEMENTS [SEC]			
THRU MOVEMENT	MINOR THRU	MAJOR THRU	MAJOR / MAJOR
MAX I	25	45	35
MAX II	35	65	55

Selection of Cycle Lengths

- Cycle Lengths in Harris County
 - Range from 60 seconds to 135 seconds
 - Selected as Harmonic Multiples of each Other
 - Allows system to be Broken into Subsystems by TOD
- Underlined Cycles Depict Core Cycle Lengths

HARRIS COUNTY CYCLE LENGTHS [SEC]		
MINOR ARTERIAL	MAJOR ARTERIAL	COMMON MULTIPLE
60	<u>90</u>	180
<u>70</u>	<u>105</u>	210
80	<u>120</u>	240
<u>90</u>	<u>135</u>	270
x 3	x 2	x 3 or x 2

Determination of Subsystems

- Same Schedule is used at all Locations
 - Subsystem Depends on Traffic Volumes (Residential)
 - No need to worry about Offsets as Plans are Harmonic
 - All Cycle Lengths run Seamlessly on the 1-1 Ratio

HARRIS COUNTY CYCLE USES FOR MAJOR AND MINOR SYSTEMS [COMMERCIAL = MAJOR / RESIDENTIAL = MINOR]

CYCLE LENGTH	MAX GREEN	MINOR PLAN #	MAJOR PLAN #	CYCLE USES
60	MAX I	[4]	N/A	MINOR OFF-PEAK
70	MAX I	1	5	MINOR MIDDAY / MAJOR LATE-NIGHT
80	MAX I	2	N/A	MINOR AM-PEAK
90	MAX I	3	4	MINOR PM-PEAK / MAJOR OFF-PEAK
105	MAX I	N/A	1	MAJOR MIDDAY
120	MAX II	N/A	2	MAJOR AM-PEAK
135	MAX II	N/A	3	MAJOR PM-PEAK

Default Harris County Schedule

HARRIS COUNTY DEFAULT SCHEDULE TABLE [ADAPTABLE TO MAJOR AND MINOR SYSTEMS VIA PLAN SELECTION]

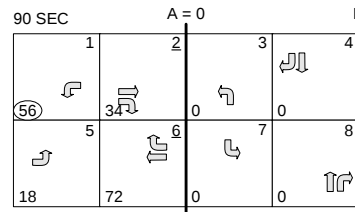
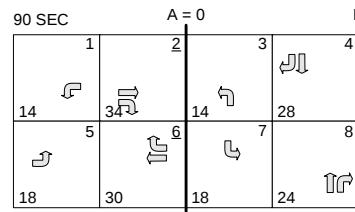
HR MIN	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	MINOR	MAJOR	BOTH	PLAN DESCRIPTION
00 00	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	FREE	FREE	FREE	HC FREE OPERATION
05 45		X	X	X	X	X		FREE	4 [90]	4 [90]	HC OFF-PEAK
06 30		X	X	X	X	X		2 [80]	2 [120]	2 [120]	HC MORNING PEAK
08 00	X						X	1 [70]	4 [90]	5 [70]	HC OFF-PEAK
09 00		X	X	X	X	X		1 [70]	4 [90]	5 [70]	HC OFF-PEAK
10 45							X	3 [90]	3 [135]	4 [90]	HC AFTERNOON PEAK
11 30	X	X	X	X	X	X		1 [70]	1 [105]	5 [70]	HC MIDDAY-PEAK
14 30		X	X	X	X	X		1 [70]	1 [105]	1 [105]	HC MIDDAY-PEAK [STEP]
16 00		X	X	X	X	X		3 [90]	3 [135]	3 [135]	HC AFTERNOON PEAK
19 00	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1 [70]	1 [105]	5 [70]	HC MIDDAY-PEAK
20 30	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	FREE	4 [90]	FREE	HC OFF-PEAK
22 00	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	FREE	5 [70]	FREE	HC LATE-NIGHT

Split Timing

HARRIS COUNTY MINIMUM SPLIT TIMING / YIELD PERIODS BY CYCLE [SEC]				
CYCLE LENGTH	VARIABLE YIELD	LEFT	THRU	PERM
60	5	12	16	22
70	5	14	18	24
80	10	14	18	24
90	10	14	22	28
105	10	14	22	28
120	15	18	24	32
135	15	18	24	32

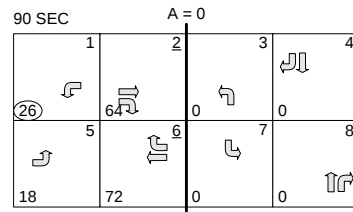
0.95 CYCLE = 60				0.95 CYCLE = 70				0.95 CYCLE = 80				0.95 CYCLE = 90				0.95 CYCLE = 105				0.95 CYCLE = 120				0.95 CYCLE = 135			
VPC	LT	TH	PER	VPC	LT	TH	PER	VPC	LT	TH	PER	VPC	LT	TH	PER	VPC	LT	TH	PER	VPC	LT	TH	PER	VPC	LT	TH	PER
1	12	16	22	1	14	18	24	1	14	18	24	1	14	22	28	1	14	22	28	1	18	24	32	1	18	24	32
2	12	16	22	2	14	18	24	2	14	18	24	2	14	22	28	2	14	22	28	2	18	24	32	2	18	24	32
3	14	16	22	3	14	18	24	3	14	18	24	3	14	22	28	3	14	22	28	3	18	24	32	3	18	24	32
4	14	16	22	4	14	18	24	4	14	18	24	4	14	22	28	4	18	22	28	4	18	24	32	4	18	24	32
5	14	16	22	5	14	18	24	5	14	18	24	5	18	22	28	5	18	22	28	5	18	24	32	5	18	24	32
6	14	16	22	6	16	18	24	6	16	18	24	6	16	22	28	6	18	22	28	6	18	24	32	6	24	24	32
7	16	16	22	7	16	18	24	7	18	18	24	7	18	22	28	7	18	22	28	7	24	24	32	7	24	24	32
8	16	16	22	8	18	18	24	8	18	18	24	8	18	22	28	8	22	22	28	8	24	24	32	8	24	24	32
9	N/A	16	22	9	18	18	24	9	18	18	24	9	22	22	28	9	22	22	28	9	24	24	32	9	28	28	32
10	N/A	18	22	10	18	18	24	10	20	20	24	10	22	22	28	10	24	24	28	10	28	24	32	10	28	28	32
11	N/A	18	22	11	N/A	18	24	11	N/A	20	24	11	22	22	28	11	28	24	28	11	28	28	32	11	32	32	38
12	N/A	18	22	12	N/A	20	24	12	N/A	22	24	12	24	24	28	12	28	28	32	12	32	28	38	12	32	32	38
13	N/A	18	22	13	N/A	22	24	13	N/A	24	28	13	N/A	24	28	13	28	28	32	13	32	32	38	13	38	38	44
14	N/A	20	22	14	N/A	22	24	14	N/A	24	28	14	N/A	28	32	14	N/A	32	38	14	N/A	32	38	14	38	38	44
15	N/A	N/A	24	15	N/A	N/A	28	15	N/A	24	28	15	N/A	28	32	15	N/A	32	38	15	N/A	38	44	15	N/A	38	44
16	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	N/A	28	32	16	N/A	32	38	16	N/A	38	44	16	N/A	44	48
17	N/A	N/A	N/A	17	N/A	N/A	N/A	17	N/A	N/A	N/A	17	N/A	N/A	N/A	17	N/A	N/A	N/A	17	N/A	38	44	17	N/A	44	48
18	N/A	N/A	N/A	18	N/A	N/A	N/A	18	N/A	N/A	N/A	18	N/A	N/A	N/A	18	N/A	N/A	N/A	18	N/A	N/A	N/A	18	N/A	N/A	N/A

Why Use Max I/II Timers?



HARRIS COUNTY MAX TIMING FOR LEFT TURNS [SEC]			
LEFT TURN	LIGHT LEFT	MODERATE LEFT	HEAVY LEFT
MAX I	20	25	25
MAX II	25	35	45

HARRIS COUNTY MAX TIMING FOR THRU MOVEMENTS [SEC]			
THRU MOVEMENT	MINOR THRU	MAJOR THRU	MAJOR / MAJOR
MAX I	25	45	35
MAX II	35	65	55



Controller Sync Time

- Comments Regarding the Offset Reference Point
 - Know where it's Referenced From (BOG / EOG)
 - Make sure Sync Time is the Same on all Controllers
 - 24:00 is not the same as 0:00 on some Controllers

90 SEC A = 0 B

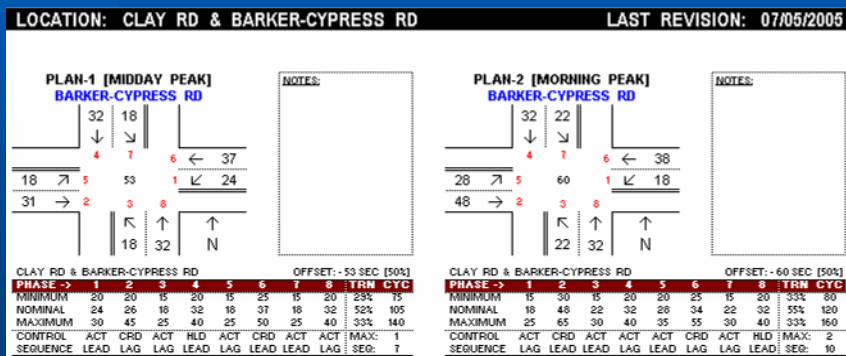
1	2	3	4
14	34	14	28
5	6	7	8
18	30	18	24

Default Phase Sequence Tables

1) LD-LD_LD-LD	5) LD-LG_LD-LD	9) LG-LD_LD-LD	13) LG-LG_LD-LD
2) LD-LD_LD-LG	6) LD-LG_LD-LG	10) LG-LD_LD-LG	14) LG-LG_LD-LG
3) LD-LD_LG-LD	7) LD-LG_LG-LD	11) LG-LD_LG-LD	15) LG-LG_LG-LD
4) LD-LD_LG-LG	8) LD-LG_LG-LG	12) LG-LD_LG-LG	16) LG-LG_LG-LG

Flexible Coordination Timing

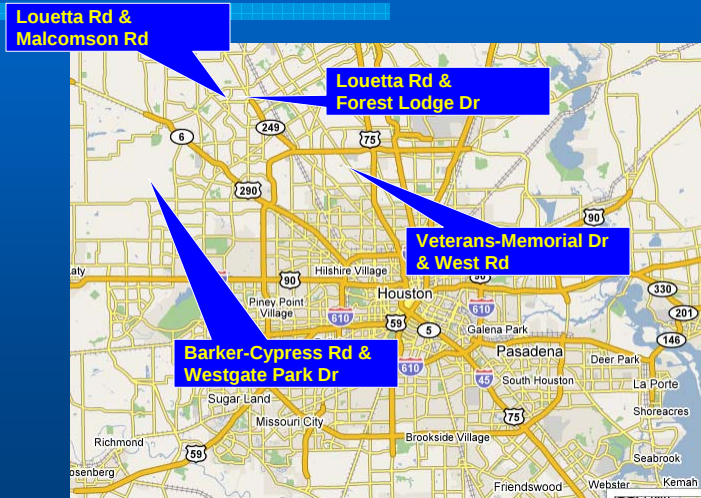
- Actuated Lagging Left-Turn
- Dual-Coordination Example



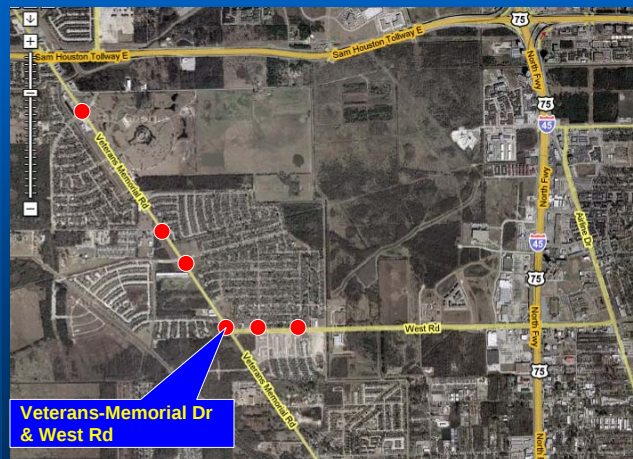
Eric's Bag of Tricks

- Typically Implemented by Time-Of-Day
 - Variable Gap Time
 - Double Service of Left-Turns
 - Floating Force-Off by Phase
 - Right-Turn Detector Logic
 - Split-Phase Based on Queue Detection
 - Left-Turn Queue Detection for Single Lane Approaches
 - Variable Walk Time Based on Push Button Input
 - Pedestrian Cross Switching and Head Starts by TOD

Double Service of Left-Turns



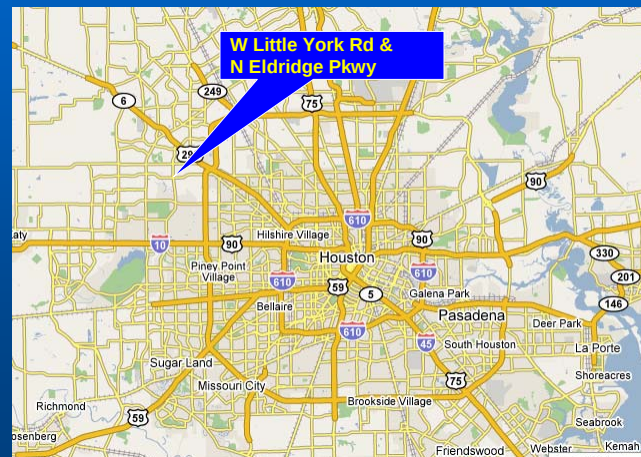
Double Service of Left-Turns



Veterans-Memorial Dr & West Rd



Floating Force-Off Example



Floating Force-Off Example



Right-Turn Detector Logic



Fry Rd & Stonelodge Dr

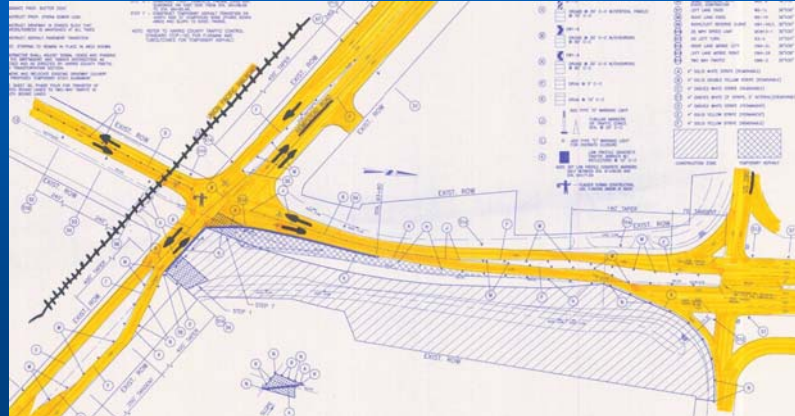


Left-Turn Queue Detection Example

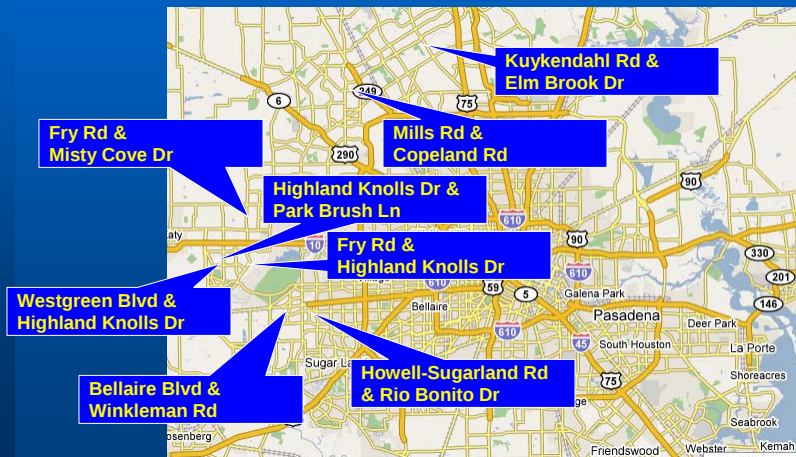


Left-Turn Queue Detection Example

- Huffmeister Rd & Hempstead Hwy



Special Pedestrian Logic Locations



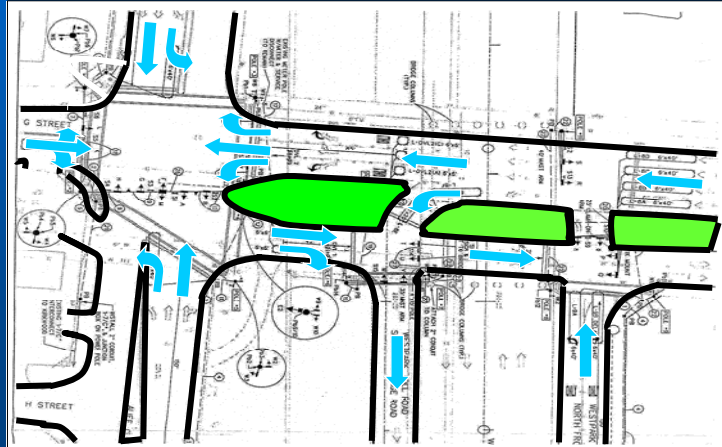
Complex Intersection Examples



WPTR & Old Westheimer Rd



WPTR & Old Westheimer Rd



Questions, Comments, Concerns?



Traffic Engineering
What • Why • How

