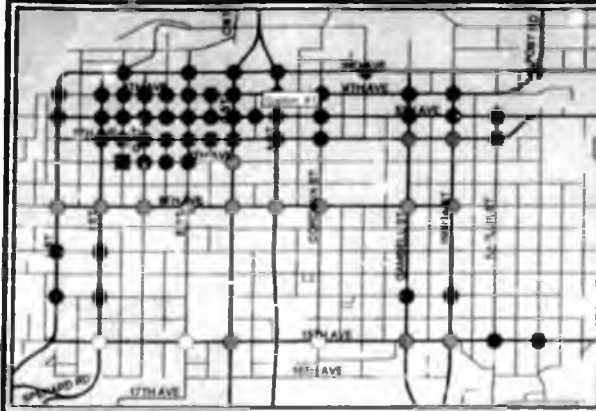


**HB**

**397**

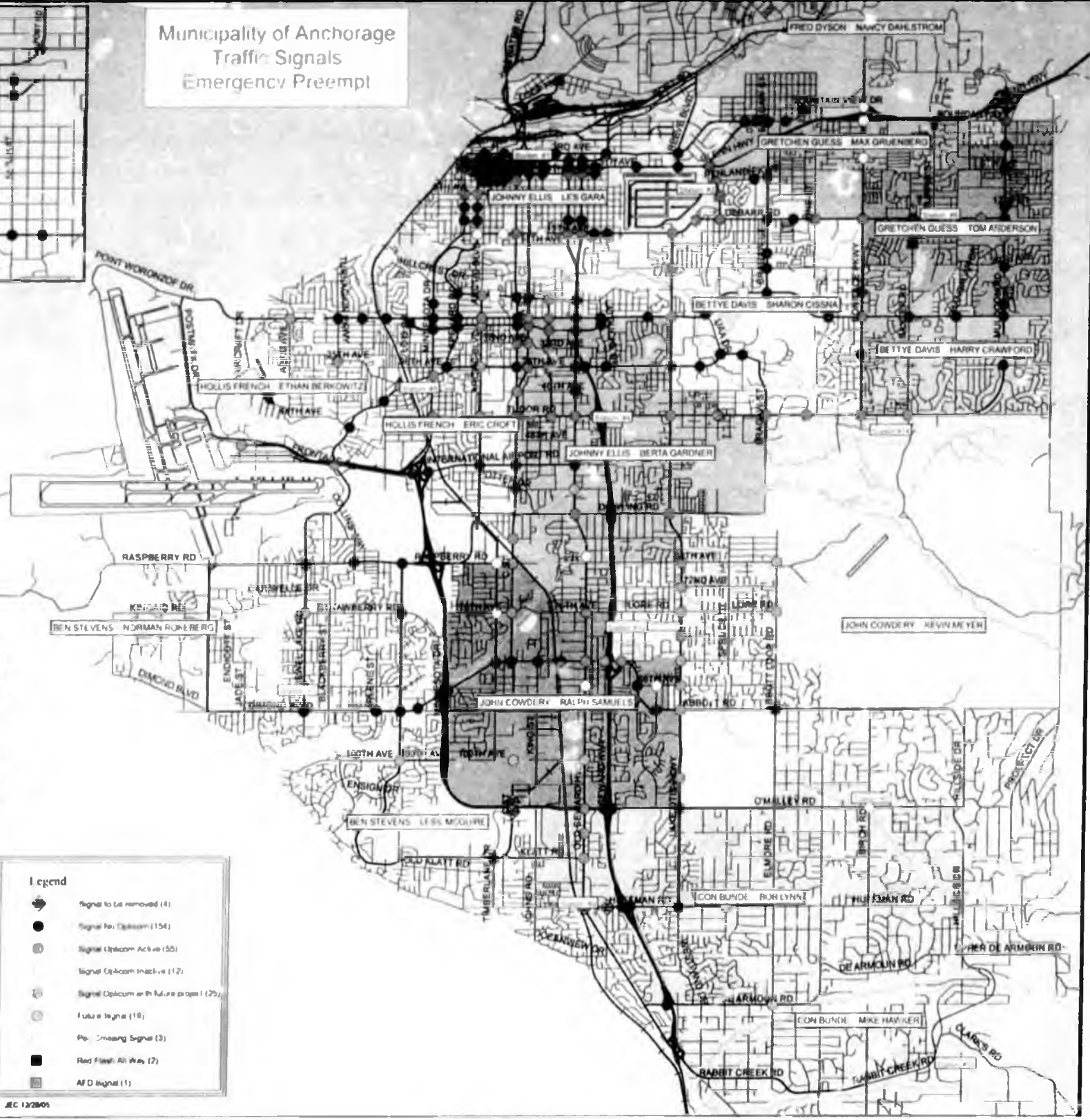
# Municipality of Anchorage Traffic Signals Emergency Preempt



**Legend**

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | Signal to be removed (4)                |
|  | Signal Not Opticom (154)                |
|  | Signal Opticom Active (50)              |
|  | Signal Opticom Inactive (12)            |
|  | Signal Opticom with Future project (20) |
|  | Future Signal (10)                      |
|  | Pending Signal (3)                      |
|  | Red Flash All Way (2)                   |
|  | ATD Signal (1)                          |

JEC 12/2005



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN  
ADMINISTRATION REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, VICE-CHAIR

website: <http://www.akrepublicans.org/Anderson.htm>



INTERIM  
718 WEST 4TH AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501  
PHONE: (907) 269-0265  
FAX: (907) 269-0264

SESSION  
STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, AK 99801 1182  
PHONE: (907) 465-4939  
1-800-465-4939  
FAX: (907) 465-2418

## Representative Tom Anderson

email: [Representative\\_Tom\\_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us)

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 1, 2006

TO: Rep. Carl Gatto, Co-Chair  
Rep. Jim Elkins, Co-Chair  
House Transportation Committee

FROM: Rep. Tom Anderson *T.A.*

RE: Hearing Request for HB 397, "Signal System Emergency Upgrades"

I respectfully request that House Bill 397, relating to an appropriation for signal system emergency upgrades, be scheduled for a hearing in the House Transportation Committee as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact me, or my aide Josh Applebee, with questions at 465-4939.

Attached you will find a background packet for HB 397. This includes the current version of the bill, a sponsor's statement, and backup materials.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Sponsor Statement for House Bill 397:  
Signal System Emergency Vehicle Pre-Emption Devices in the Anchorage Area**

Signal system emergency vehicle pre-emption devices ("Opticom's") allow emergency vehicles approaching a traffic signal to override the normal signal control and change the light from red to green. This enables emergency vehicles to proceed more rapidly and safely to the site of the emergency.

Over the past five years, the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) and Alaska Department of Transportation/Public Facilities (ADOT/PF) have installed signal pre-emption units at intersections to help vehicles safely on their way. Currently there are signal pre-empt devices at 54 of the 244 intersections in Anchorage and Eagle River.

At the request of the Anchorage Fire Department and the Municipality of Anchorage Traffic Department, House Bill 397 would provide \$1,950,000 State funding to complement a two-to-one match of \$950,000, to be paid for by MOA traffic bonds.

House Bill 397 will improve emergency services and help to save lives and property in Anchorage.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my staff, Josh Applebee or me. You may also contact the following for more information regarding Opticom's:

John Kiewik, Deputy Fire Chief, MOA, 907-267-5064  
Robert Kniefel, Traffic Engineer, MOA, 907-343-8406

Cordially,

Tom Anderson  
State Representative

**Michael Bucy**

**From:** [redacted] [KniefelRE@ci.anchorage.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 29, 2006 7:36 AM  
**To:** Michael Bucy  
**Subject:** RE: HB 397

*P HB397*

I am planning on calling in for the Thursday hearing. ~~Some of the signal system, we have turned~~  
~~at the yellow intersection (those that had Opticom but not activated). We have over 60 intersections with the~~  
~~Opticom in use. Talk with you on Thursday.~~

*Thanks*

*Bob Kniefel*  
MOA Traffic Engineer  
343-8410

*MOA*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Michael Bucy [mailto:Michael\_Bucy@legis.state.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2006 5:04 PM  
**To:** Kniefel, Robert E.  
**Subject:** HB 397

Bob,

Thank you for showing up for this afternoon's meeting of the House Transportation Committee. I am sorry it took so long but our bill got bumped about 30seconds before the start of committee! Perogative of the chair, I suppose.

As Max mentioned, we hope you will be there this Thursday, March 30th at 1:30 as well. Please let me know. For your information, I have a large map of the Anchorage Area showing where there are and are not Opticom's that are operational.

Regards,

**2006 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM  
MUNICIPAL PRIORITY ISSUES  
CAPITAL BUDGET GRANT REQUEST- COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

**ISSUE/PROJECT NAME:** Anchorage Signal System Emergency Vehicle Pre-Emption  
**ISSUE/IMPROVEMENT TYPE:** Signal System Upgrade (\$2,900,000)  
**STATE GRANT REQUEST:** \$1,950,000  
**LOCAL MATCH:** \$950,000 (MOA Traffic Bonds)  
**PRIORITY:** 1

**ISSUE/PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The provision of emergency services requires that emergency vehicles travel to the site in a safe and efficient manner. Over the past five years, the MOA and ADOT/PF have installed signal pre-emption units at intersections to help vehicles safely on their way. Currently we have signal pre-empt equipment at 54 of the 244 intersection in Anchorage and Eagle River. This funding will expedite the pre-empt installations at the remaining intersection signals within the next three years. The update will result in improved emergency services and the ability to maintain the current response times.

**POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS:**

**Community Council:** Areawide  
**Assembly Section:** All  
**Legislative District(s):**  
**House:** 16 - 32  
**Senate:** 1 - P

**CONTACT PERSON:** Lance Wilber, Traffic Director, Traffic Department (907) 343-8411; Bob Kniefel, Traffic Engineer, Traffic Department (907) 343-8410.

**Sarah Hook**

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**From:** Kiewik, John G. [KiewikJG@ci.anchorage.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2005 3:27 PM  
**To:** Sarah Hook  
**Subject:** RE: Current Opticom List  
**Attachments:** Opticom list to kiewik.xls

Sarah,

See the embedded answers below. I won't need a CMA letter from Max, but thanks for offering! ☺

John Kiewik

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sarah Hook [mailto:Sarah\_Hook@legis.state.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2005 5:02 PM  
**To:** Kiewik, John G.  
**Cc:** Weston, Michelle R.  
**Subject:** RE: Current Opticom List

John,

Thank you for the information. I talked things over with Max and he has a couple more questions regarding the 200 intersections that do not have opticom.

- 1.) How many of the 200 signals are the state's responsibility and how many are the muni's responsibility? (or maybe a better way to say that is how many are on state roads and how many on city roads and does that make a difference in regards to who is responsible for maintaining them?)

Of the 181 State signals in Anchorage 43 of them are equipped with Opticom with 36 of those in operation.

Of the 72 Muni signals 10 of them are equipped with Opticom with 6 of those operational.

Through the TORA (Transfer of Responsibility Agreement) all traffic signals within the Municipality of Anchorage are maintained by the MOA Traffic Department. This agreement was recently renegotiated between the Municipality of Anchorage and the State of Alaska.

- 2.) Where are the state signal's that still need opticom located in Anchorage?

Attached is a complete list of all signals maintained by the MOA Traffic Department and identified by Owner, State or Muni. Also listing which signals are equipped with Opticom, installed and/or operational.

- 3.) Is there a priority list of traffic lights that most need the opticom, or that would be the most beneficial?

This is a hard one to pin down exactly, but a good start would be to equip or finish out all the major corridors such as the Seward Highway, the Glenn Highway/ E. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, DeBarr Road/E. 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Lake Otis Parkway, 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Minnesota Bi-Pass, Northern Lights and Benson Boulevards, and

Dimond Boulevard and Muldoon Road. Many of these Streets intersect which of course benefits both roadways. You'll note I didn't include Tudor Road because it's my understanding this will be equipped from Minnesota to 36<sup>th</sup> this year during the resurfacing project this year. If you need a specific list of intersections, based on cost, I'll have to study that a little to get the "biggest bang for the bucks" so to speak.

- 4.) Are there any statistics available regarding lives saved, response time saved etc for cities that have the opticom devices?

To the best of my knowledge, there are no statistics of this type out there. Once the system is substantially completed it would be easy to measure response times on a before and after basis. I guess you could say that every time we respond and pass through intersection safely, and arrive in a timely manner that life and property is saved. First and foremost this is a safety system, for the pedestrian and driving public, and firefighters as well. You might be interested to know, according to Mike Syngson of Advanced Traffic Products Inc., that among the major west coast cities, only Anchorage and Spokane do not have a fully built out signal preemption system.

I would appreciate any answers you might be able to provide to these questions. If there is someone else I should be directing the questions to, or if you could point me in the right direction for doing my own research on opticoms, please let me know!

Sarah thanks so much for thinking of us in our efforts to provide the highest level of service to the citizens of Anchorage. The signal information provided to you was produced by Bill Sosnowski, Signal Foreman with the Municipal Traffic Department. He sends his best regards to Max who represented him a while back in a personal matter.

John Kiewik

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**From:** Kiewik, John G. [mailto:KiewikJG@ci.anchorage.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2005 1:53 PM  
**To:** Sarah Hook  
**Subject:** FW: Current Opticom List



-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sosnowski, William J.  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2005 8:45 AM  
**To:** Kiewik, John G.  
**Subject:** Current Opticom List

John the intersections in red are the most recent additions.  
 Bill

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## OPTICOM INTERSECTIONS

December 21, 2004

2:45 PM

Opticom Opticom

**Caroline Lombard**

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**From:** Kiewik, John G. [KiewikJG@ci.anchorage.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 05, 2005 9:41 AM  
**To:** Caroline Lombard  
**Subject:** Opticoms

Caroline,

I'd like to speak to you when you have a moment in regard to "Opticom legislation" as proposed by Rep. Gruenberg. Looking forward to hearing from you.

John Kiewik, Deputy Fire Chief  
Anchorage Fire Department  
907-267-5064

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kempton, Tom G.  
**Sent:** Monday, December 05, 2005 9:35 AM  
**To:** Kiewik, John G.  
**Subject:** FW: Information for press, etc.

**Research on traffic pre-emption devices for Anchorage**  
(report for Anchorage Caucus 2/12/05)

Currently Sarah Hook, on my staff, has been doing research on pre-emption devices for traffic lights in Anchorage. Pre-emption devices allow emergency response vehicles to change the traffic lights from red to green when they are responding to a call. Specifically we are looking at how many lights still need the devices installed and turned on in Anchorage and what districts they are located in. In addition we are looking at the safety issues surrounding the use of the lights, for example, the decrease in response time and how many lives this can save.

Sarah has received information from the Anchorage Fire Department (Thank you!!) and she is working on putting together a report, detailing which districts each of these lights are in and other relevant information.

Sarah

Done

Thx. See me

**Sarah Hook**

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**From:** Kiewik, John G. [KiewikJG@d.anchorage.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2005 9:06 AM  
**To:** Sarah Hook  
**Subject:** More Preemption Info

Good Morning Sarah,

Almost all of our apparatus is already equipped with Opticom™ emitters. We have specified it in all new equipment purchases. The cost per unit is approximately \$1100.00. The only front line apparatus that is not currently equipped is the Water Tenders at Stations 8,9,10 & 11 and 3 brush fire units. Please thank Max for his interest and discussion at the Anchorage Caucus teleconference this weekend, and of course your able assistance in this matter.

John Kiewik