Easy & Quick Deployment of Automated Queue Warning Systems

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Work Zone ITS is now much more common across the United States, although most systems are still large and expensive in scope. Using the same technologies, new smaller systems are becoming more popular as well. Queue Warning Systems are quickly becoming the preferred cost-effective option for not only rural work zones but also for special events and maintenance operations. These systems can be quickly deployed by non-technical staff in very short periods of time and provide real-time messages upstream warning motorists. In addition, automated speed alerts can also be sent to key personnel. These smaller systems can consist of 2 to 5 field platforms or more and be deployed and operational in just minutes. This combined with the much lower system cost is leading to much more utilization and increased safety on rural roadways. Work Zone crashes are not exclusive to heavily traveled roads and big cities. Some of the worst rear end type crashes occur in rural areas where the drivers least expect queues of traffic or other physical restrictions to the roadway. In addition, these same systems can also provide instant high speed warnings to any vehicles entering the work zone at speeds greater than a user-defined threshold, thus calming traffic when queues are not present. These low cost systems are proven and available for work zones, special events and maintenance activities (i.e. guard rail repair, patching, etc.). We will explore these systems and review the ease of deployment and features and warnings that they can provide to both motorists and agencies alike. Finally Work Zone ITS, that even Counties & Cities can afford and easily cost justify, while making their roadways safer.