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City of San José Launches Emergency Vehicle Preemption Service

San Jose, CA (December 14, 2018) – The City of San José has launched Centralized Emergency Vehicle Preemption (CEVP) Service, a traffic signal software solution that utilizes the emergency vehicle location and existing City technology to turn traffic signals green for fire and police vehicles responding to emergencies.

“This project provides another example of how the City of San José has embraced technology to improve public safety and better respond to emergencies,” said Mayor Sam Liccardo. “Thanks to the great work of our Fire Department, San Jose has now met its emergency medical service response time standard eight months in a row – and this new signal preemption technology will help us build on that progress to improve response times even further.”

“The Fire Department responds to more than 90,000 incidents annually. CEVP will result in faster Fire Department response times and roadways will be safer for all motorists and pedestrians,” said Fire Chief Robert Sapien, Jr.

CEVP will improve response times of police and fire department vehicles responding to emergencies, increase roadway and first responder safety, and ultimately save lives. The technology will officially deploy starting today, and was achieved through cooperation across San José Fire, Police, and Transportation Departments, and in partnership with the assistance of dispatch and traffic control technology providers.
"By working across departments, utilizing previous investments in technology, and thinking outside of the box, the City came up with a solution that achieves important safety and innovation goals," said John Ristow, Acting Director of Transportation. “The results will be tangible and immediate benefits to the public.”

The City’s CEVP solution saved approximately $9 million compared to the hardware upgrades that would have otherwise been required at each added intersection. Employing the new system will also create savings from reduced ongoing maintenance costs.

The technology expands preemption service to over 900 intersections throughout the City by leveraging significant previous investment in its traffic signal network. The new system will be monitored and incorporated into the operations and maintenance program, resulting in response time improvements at low cost.

"Aligning traffic signals with responding emergency vehicles will allow our officers to navigate busy intersections more safely and get critical resources to the scene faster," said Police Chief Eddie Garcia.

Members of the public are reminded to “Pull to the Right” for emergency vehicles with a siren and flashing lights.

About the City of San José
With more than one million residents, San José is one of the most diverse large cities in the United States and is Northern California’s largest city and the 10th largest city in the nation. San José’s transformation into a global innovation center has resulted in one of the largest concentrations of technology companies and expertise in the world. In 2011, the City adopted Envision San José 2040, a long-term growth plan that sets forth a vision and a comprehensive road map to guide the City’s anticipated growth through the year 2040.

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