

Give Me Green

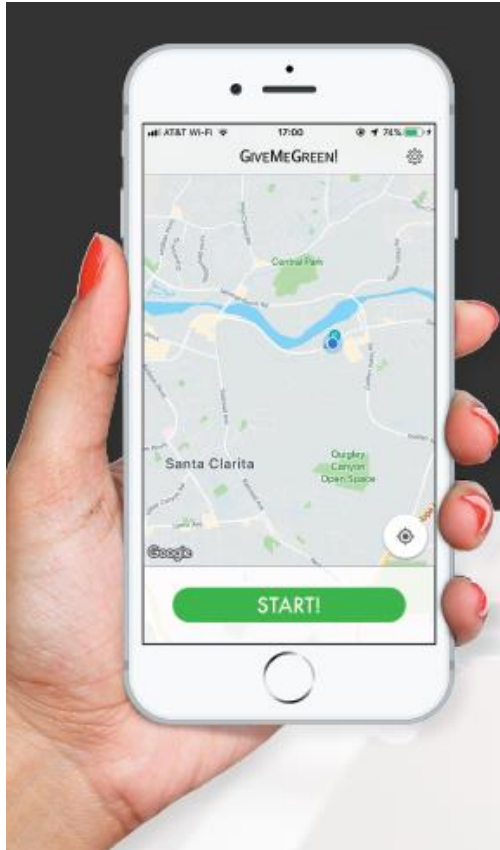
Give me Green is a free smartphone application developed in partnership with Sensys Networks that allows bicyclists to be detected as they approach an intersection. By integrating the new technology into the existing traffic signal and adding dynamic signage to inform drivers and cyclists when the system is activated, the City has provided an innovative, cost effective enhancement to the safety, efficiency, and convenience at four intersections along one of its busiest traffic corridors.

The Give me Green application, combined with existing intelligent intersection technology provides a good example of how smart technology can improve safety, decrease congestion and improve the travel experience for a new genre of connected traveler.

Currently deployed at four intersections along the Chuck Pontius Commuter Rail Trail parallel to Soledad Canyon Road, one of the region's busiest arterial roadways, the system consists of the *GiveMeGreen!* smartphone app, "blank-out" signs at intersections informing turning motorists when bicyclists have been detected and are approaching, and finally a pole-mounted bicycle indicator light to inform cyclists that they have been detected.

Together these three components are an intelligent transportation solution that increases awareness, improves safety and reduces the stress on all roadway users – pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicle drivers - where they need it most, at intersections.

In a typical scenario, the Give me Green user is notified that they have been detected via their smartphone and, simultaneously via a physical light on the signal pole. The signal controller then places the cyclist in the cue as they roll toward the intersection and at the beginning of the next available signal phase both the bicyclist and motorist are advised that the cyclist is present and has the right-of-way. The bicycling community was invited to participate and offer their feedback during beta testing, to ensure functionality across various smartphone platforms. The public response to date has been overwhelmingly positive, particularly from commuters and other cyclists that use the trail regularly. Even though the bicyclist will still periodically encounter a stop signal, the early detection and feedback is reassuring that they will soon be on their way without needing to find and press the pedestrian push button.



GET MORE GREEN LIGHTS WHEN YOU'RE ON YOUR BIKE

The app allows bicyclists to be automatically detected up to 300 feet in advance of the intersection.



GiveMeGreen!

POWERED BY  SENSYS NETWORKS

Scan to register, or visit sensysnetworks.com/gmgsc





Blank-out signs to advise drivers of the presence of pedestrians or bicyclists entering the crosswalk.



Bicycle indicator light informing the cyclist that they have been detected.

City, tech company partner for new app

By Tammy Murga
Signal Staff Writer

Santa Clarita is once again the first city to test new technology aimed at improving the way of life in the area. This time, bicyclists and motorists will have the opportunity to experience a pilot program firsthand.

The city, in partnership with Sensys Networks Inc., a world-leading wireless technology company, announced Tuesday a new, free mobile app for bicycle detection at signalized intersections.

The purpose? To “improve safety, decrease congestion and improve the travel experience for many different types of connected travelers,” according to Amine Haoui, CEO of Sensys Networks.

The GiveMeGreen! app is the first of many connected and autonomous traveler apps developed by Sensys Networks, which offers cities traffic data to help improve and manage traffic flow through its in-ground, wireless sensors that detect traffic at intersections and highways.

The company has tested the system at other cities around the state, but Santa Clarita is the first to deploy the initial pilot program, according to Floyd Williams, vice president of data services with Sensys Networks.

How it works

Using an ultra-low-power, patented radar sensor dubbed FlexRadar, bicycles are accurately detected near the stop bar, including non-ferrous bike frame materials like carbon fiber.

Through the GiveMeGreen! app, users are automatically detected up to

300 feet in advance of an intersection. Once detected, the signal applies the normal pedestrian-crossing signal timing function, allowing those on foot and bikes to use the same signal phase without causing delays for motorists.

“This works as if you’re pressing a pedestrian push button except it happens automatically,” said Williams.

The initial pilot project is deployed at three intersections along the Chuck Pontius Commuter Rail bike trail, parallel to Soledad Canyon Road.

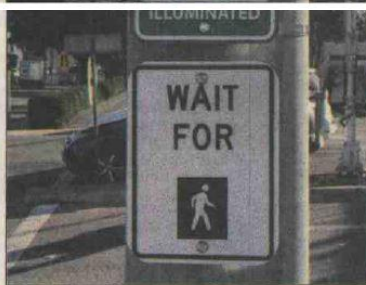
New signs are also installed, which illuminate when bicyclists or pedestrians are detected to warn turning motorists on Soledad Canyon Road. The system also includes a bicycle-only light at each

location along the bike trail, letting bicyclists know they have been detected.

“GiveMeGreen! not only improves safety but also improves the ride experience for Santa Clarita’s legions of cyclists with automatic and reliable advance detection,” Cesar Romo, traffic signal system administrator for the city, said in a statement.

While the app has not yet launched, cyclists can check the Sensys Networks website at sensys-networks.com for updates expected next week, according to Williams.

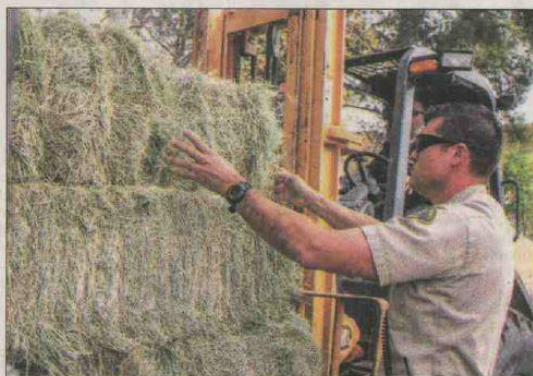
For more information about GiveMeGreen! in Santa Clarita, contact Romo at cro@signal-clarity.com or at 661-286-4002. tmurga@signalscv.com



Courtesy photo

The city of Santa Clarita is partnering with Sensys Networks Inc. to create a free mobile app for bicycle detection at signalized intersections.

Helping animals in need



Austin Dave/The Signal

(See additional photos at signalscv.com)

Deputy Pratchard works with Peter J. Pitchess Detention Center inmates to offload about 200 bales of hay donated to the Castaic Animal Shelter for animals evacuated during the Woolsey Fire southwest of Santa Clarita.

