

Since 1973

December 18, 2013

Mr. Greg Wilhelm, P.E.  
Missouri Department of Transportation  
1590 Woodlake Drive  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

**I do hereby certify that in accordance with the requirements of 23 CFR 635.411(a)(2), no equally suitable alternate exists for this patented or proprietary item.**

 FOR  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State Design Engineer

Subject: Public Interest Finding (PIF)  
Traffic Management Enhancements - Phase II  
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality- CMAQ 9900 (666)  
City of St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Mr. Wilhelm:

On behalf of the City of St. Louis, we request approval of a finding in the public interest to continue the use of *Siemens* software in order to maintain centralized control of traffic signals within the vast traffic signal system owned and operated by the City of Louis. Specifically, we seek your permission to identify *Siemens* within the bid documents for this project which is receiving only construction funds through the CMAQ federal program.

As you may know, the City of St. Louis currently operates their city-wide traffic signal network with *Siemens ACTRA* software. ***This project proposes the upgrade of this software to the current version Siemens TACTICS*** for the following reasons:

1. **Antiquated Server Hardware cannot be Replaced Due to the Fact that *Siemens ACTRA* is Incompatible with Newer Operating Systems:** *Siemens ACTRA* software is running on antiquated hardware with a legacy operating system which is no longer supported by Microsoft. However, the hardware cannot be upgraded as *Siemens ACTRA* is not compatible with newer operating systems offered today such as Windows 7 or 8. In addition, *ACTRA* is nearing the end of its own lifespan and will soon no longer be supported by *Siemens*. Therefore, any replacement or upgrade of physical hardware (along with the associated operating system) would necessitate the purchase of newer signal software such as *Siemens TACTICS*.
2. ***Siemens TACTICS* is Compatible with Current Traffic Signal Controllers:** *Siemens TACTICS* is the only software package that is fully compatible with the signal equipment already in place throughout the City of St. Louis - including approximately 600 *Siemens EPAC* signal controllers. Other signal software brands would require numerous signal controller replacements or controller firmware updates in order to maintain the same level of control. It should be noted that the City of St. Louis has invested a substantial financial effort over the last 15 years through CMAQ signal projects in order to create this network, install these controllers, and integrate them into their traffic network. It is not the intent of this project to deconstruct the entire network in order to rebuild it for another signal software brand's requirements through a massive and costly effort, but rather simply upgrade it and continue using the infrastructure that has already been designed, purchased, and installed through past projects.

3. **City of St. Louis Staff are National Experts in the Use of *Siemens* Software:** As mentioned, *Siemens TACTICS* is the next evolution of software developed by *Siemens* following *ACTRA*. City Staff are already trained and well experienced in the use of *Siemens* signal software and will easily recognize many features and functions within the new software without needing training that a new system would require. The City of St. Louis has one of the largest *Siemens* signal system in the country and are experts in the use of its features and day-to-day operation. By staying with the same *Siemens* signal software platform, it will provide for a more seamless transition with fewer disruptions to the traffic network during installation and initial operation.

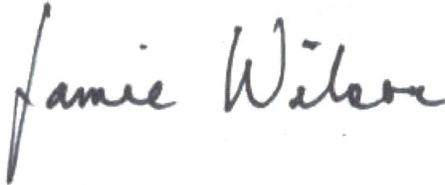
---

4. ***Siemens TACTICS* has Unique Features Currently in Use with *ACTRA* that are Necessary to Preserve:** *Siemens TACTICS* offers unique features that cannot be found in other software packages. The City of St. Louis currently utilizes the "Quick Response" module built into *Siemens ACTRA* for special event timing plans and emergency response timing plans. In fact, the City of St. Louis is finalizing special event timing plans as part of the Traffic Management Enhancements - Phase I Project for each of the major venues within the city including Busch Stadium, Edward Jones Dome, Scottrade Center, Chaifetz Arena, the Fox Theatre and Forest Park. Each of these special event timing plans will be utilized within "Quick Response" as it allows for initiation of a special timing plan following an event to mitigate traffic. To our knowledge, other systems do not have a similar feature readily comparable to "Quick Response". Even though other systems could potentially custom develop this feature it would require the reprogramming of all the special event timing plans already in place through earlier CMAQ efforts.
5. **Upgrade Costs for *Siemens TACTICS* Significantly Less than Other Software Brand/Infrastructure:** Due to the numerous reasons stated above, the overall cost of upgrading to *Siemens TACTICS* would be significantly less expensive than converting to a new overall system. With a different software brand, a great number of signal controllers would require replacement or firmware upgrades. In addition, a new software brand system may include additional cost in order to develop unique features, such as "Quick Response", that are currently being used by the City of St. Louis. Lastly, a new system would require extensive training of City staff and would require many more man-hours in order to transition to a fully operational system.
6. **Regional Compatibility:** St. Louis County Highways and Traffic has recently completed the same upgrade of their central signal software from *Siemens ACTRA* to *TACTICS* for all the reasons stated above as well. Upon completion of this project, the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County will be able to share resources and form a knowledgebase for operating and troubleshooting their respective systems together.

We ask that you please consider the reasons stated above for upgrading the City of St. Louis' *Siemens ACTRA* to the latest version *TACTICS* in order to maintain functionality with the existing network infrastructure built over the last 15 years of CMAQ projects. This upgrade will further improve the ability of City Staff to safely and effectively manage their complex traffic signal system.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this Public Interest Finding. We seek MoDOT's approval of this request at your earliest convenience. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "J".

Jamie Wilson, P.E., PTOE  
President/Chief Executive Officer

CC: Mr. Roger Allison, P.E., Board of Public Service  
Mr. Matthew McLeese, P.E., Board of Public Service  
Mr. Todd Waelterman, City of St. Louis Street Department  
Mr. Steve Runde, City of St. Louis Street Department

