
Traffic Management Center

Scope Statement – February 7, 2013

Why is traffic management important?

Improving traffic signal operations can have a significant impact on the efficiency of the city's roadway transportation system and the quality of the public's travel experience. Appropriately designed, operated, and maintained traffic signals are one way to reduce traffic congestion and fuel consumption, decrease the negative impact vehicle emissions have on air quality, and improve traffic flow and safety.

What is a traffic management center?

A traffic management center collects traffic information, monitors traffic flow and equipment, and allows real-time adjustments to traffic signals from a central location. Traffic management centers can help the public reach their destinations safely and efficiently when road construction, traffic accidents, and big events occur.

Why audit the city's Traffic Management Center?

The Traffic Management Center is a fairly new function, which became operational in 2011. The city used about \$3.8 million to remodel and furnish the traffic operations building and add a traffic management center. About \$1.9 million of the funds were from federal transportation and energy department grants, which were primarily used for the Traffic Management Center. Because the Traffic Management Center is staffed only by a part time employee, it may not be used to its full potential.

Audit objectives

Our objective is to answer the following question:

- Is the Public Works Department effectively using the Traffic Management Center to manage traffic?

Audit methods

We will interview experts and review professional literature to identify recommended practices; review the City Charter and Code of Ordinances; examine Public Works Department policies, procedures, and operations manuals; and interview Public Works Department staff.

Anticipated release date

We plan to present the audit report to the City Council in August 2013.