Rt. 50/Gum Spring Road Intersection Issues

On Friday of last week and again yesterday, the intersection of Route 50 and Gum Spring Road experienced severe delays. The intersection is being worked on by a signal contractor on behalf of a developer. As a result of pavement work, the normal loop sensors used to control the traffic signal have been temporarily taken out and replaced by camera sensors.

As soon as I became aware of problems in each instance, I contacted VDOT signal operations to take corrective action. On Friday, the signal failed and the intersection had to be controlled by the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office. Following that event, I spoke with the parties involved and received assurances that it would not happen again.

Obviously, it did. After reviewing the data with VDOT last night, it was clear that yesterday evening the signal had failed for a period and was short timing, especially for traffic turning left onto Gum Spring.

This morning, we had a meeting with the developer, the signal contractor and VDOT. From that discussion, it appears that the culprit yesterday was equipment failure. The camera that was supposed to be controlling the intersection stopped working for a time, and then was not operating properly.

I have requested that the signal contractor remain onsite during rush hour for the remainder of the week, with increased VDOT oversight. I want to ensure that someone is physically present to fix the equipment if it fails again. The engineers are also working on solutions so that this problem doesn't happen again.

Those of us that use this intersection regularly know that it has delays even when things are working properly. Over the next few months, there will be continued changes when the West Spine intersection replaces Gum Spring as the through access point to the south. This will help with southbound capacity by adding a second turn lane on 50 westbound.

As always--if you notice unusual delays--please email me as soon as it is safe at matt.letourneau@loudoun.gov. When I hear about problems, I do my best to try to get them fixed. I'm sorry these issues have been occurring. Please know that they are not acceptable to me or the County and we have made that quite clear.