

# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## Borough traffic flow gets a lot better

Have you noticed?

As you drive down High Street, especially in the evening, the traffic lights all turn green.

That's because the \$13 million "closed loop system," funded and installed by PennDOT, is up and running.



Commentary by  
Thomas Hylton

All 40 traffic signals in Pottstown, plus those in Lower Pottsgrove and North Coventry, can now "talk" to one another, ensuring motorists no longer have to wait at an intersection when

no cross traffic is coming.

No more sitting at High and Hanover streets in the wee hours of the morning waiting for the signal to change, even though the streets are deserted.

And because the traffic arms are fitted with infrared sensors, ambulances, fire trucks and other emergency vehicles fitted with transponders can turn lights green as they approach, increasing safety and response time.

The Pottstown Police are seeking a grant to put transponders in their cars, as well. (But don't try to put one in your civilian car; it's a federal crime.)

The closed-loop system is one of those projects that seemed to take forever. It was first discussed 20 years ago, but PennDOT kept pushing the installation date back to the point where it became a running joke.

When PennDOT contractors finally started digging up the intersections, starting in 2017, to install the enormous new poles and traffic arms required, that, too, seemed to take forever.

But the work is done, and as a bonus, PennDOT installed new handi-



**INFRARED SENSORS**

capped ramps at all the intersections with ADA-required "truncated dome mats," saving Pottstown taxpayers a ton of money.

The last

piece to be installed is a connection to a computer at borough hall, allowing the public works department to analyze real time data as to how the lights are functioning.



**POLICE CAMERA  
(one of 12)**

For decades, going down High Street has been a frustrating process of stop and go. Now that motorists can seamlessly drive down our major thoroughfares, I wonder how soon we will take it all for granted?



**HANDICAPPED  
RAMPS AND MATS**



**GREEN LIGHTS AS FAR AS YOU CAN SEE** — Pottstown's new \$13 million closed-loop traffic signal system, years in the making, is nearly complete. Among its many benefits is vastly improved traffic flow on major thoroughfares like High Street, above. The LED traffic lights stay green in the evenings by default, only changing to red when someone drives up from a side street. They also turn green automatically as emergency vehicles approach. All funded by PennDOT.