

Copenhagen Fire Department

H.C. Andersens Boulevard 23, DK-1553, Copenhagen

SaCS LP

Att.: Lars Krogh Nielsen

Date	Unit	J. no.	Phone no. / Case officer
8/9 2005	Fire and Rescue Unit		(+45) 3366 2942 / N.O. Blirup

Concerning: Project "Green Wave".

These are comments to the project as it has been presented to us. Among other things, it is provided that the Green Wave effect is meant to operate during turn-outs only.

Green Wave for an emergency vehicle will undoubtedly increase safety for both the vehicle as well as for the persons in it, especially for smaller vehicles, as these can be overlooked despite turn-out signals. Though driving carefully, our vehicles are sometimes hit by other vehicles in intersections when turning out. The opposite party often state that they did not see or hear the emergency vehicle, even though it had blue lights and the siren on. In several cases, it is vehicles overtaking on the right (in several cases even in the right-turn lane) one or more rows of other vehicles giving way to the emergency vehicle in question. In these cases, it would naturally be a great safety improvement, if these vehicles coming from all other directions have a red light.

It is difficult to say anything about the time advantages for a turn-out, but in Copenhagen, there are a particularly high number of traffic lights, and these can cause many stops and starts, as speed has to be reduced completely when driving towards a red traffic light, and thus they obviously cause a delay.

Furthermore, a green wave will give a far smoother transport, corresponding to escort driving when transporting, for instance, severely injured persons or transportation where, for example, a doctor has to treat a patient during a turn-out on the way to hospital.

According to the arguments mentioned above, is logic that the more widely the "Green Wave" system can be used in cities in the entire country, the more people will benefit from the increased safety and quicker and smoother transport with improved possibility of treatment. The negative effect of the system is among other things an interruption of the rhythm of other road users and their possible green wave for a short period.

Furthermore, in Copenhagen, it will be most important that the distances within which the system is to/can operate are agreed upon by the authorities and companies, which will be using the system, as in many places, traffic lights are numerous and very closely placed, and there are many simultaneous turn-outs which often interfere with each other.

Yours sincerely

Niels Ole Blirup
Chief of the Fire and Rescue Unit