

QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC



Please return your completed question form to Democratic Support, Plymouth City Council, Ballard House, West Hoe Road, Plymouth, PL1 3BJ or email: democraticservices@plymouth.gov.uk

Question to be submitted no later than 5 clear working days before the meeting.

Question submitted by: Jennie Ferrett
To the Cabinet Member or Chair for: Cllr Stephens
To be asked at the next (Council, Cabinet or Planning Committee) Meeting: Cabinet
Date: 09/03/2026
Question (to be no longer than 50 words): What has been put in place to reduce the extreme wait times when approaching Stanborough Cross traffic lights, when driving from Plympton, as a result of increased traffic on Haye Road since the opening of the Crematorium and, now, the diversion created by the closure of Colesdown Hill?
Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs) Stanborough Cross traffic signal system benefits from MOVA technology (Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation) When approaches to a MOVA enabled junction become overloaded with traffic, MOVA automatically changes from <i>delay-minimising</i> to <i>capacity-maximising</i> operation. This helps push the highest number of vehicles through the junction when demand is high. MOVA continuously assesses flow on each arm of a junction and computes the most efficient green time distribution between each arm to maximise throughput. This improves performance compared to traditional VA (vehicle actuation), which cannot optimise based on queue lengths or amount of upstream traffic. The logic includes algorithms specifically designed to manage congestion, oversaturation, and heavy traffic scenarios, allowing the system to maintain smoother flow even when the network is under pressure. Traditional VA struggles when traffic becomes too heavy because: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It can extend greens inefficiently• It doesn't consider queue lengths• Maximum greens can become out-of-date• High-speed detection systems become ineffective at busy junctions

MOVA overcomes these issues through more advanced detection and optimisation algorithms and reduces delays by an average of 13% compared with traditional VA operation.

We are reliant on this system across Plymouth as traffic demand remains high on many of our key traffic signal-controlled junctions. We do not consider the additional traffic movement from detoured traffic having a negative effect at this location

The longer term strategy to help address congestion also includes measures to alleviate congestion at key pinch points and provide safe and attractive alternatives to private car use such as the Colesdown underbridge walking and cycling route and the Royal Parade Bus Interchange scheme.