

SA creates world's safest traffic light pole

www.sagoodnews.co.za

http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/sa_teaching_the_world/sa_creates_world_s_safest_traffic_light_pole.html

Monday, 07 January 2008

A new South African innovation is being heralded as the world's first truly safe traffic light system and is currently being piloted on the streets of Johannesburg.

The Modular Traffic Light System (MTLS) is the safest in the world as the entire system is composed of polymer or plastic with no steel or metal components, explains the Johannesburg Road Agency (JRA). The system poses minimal danger to motorists in the unfortunate circumstance of a collision with the traffic light.



The world's first modular traffic lights

The system is the first of its kind in the world and was designed by project director Barry Geer for the Johannesburg Roads Agency. Each traffic light pole is created from individual plastic segments that stack on top of each other and are then held together in compression by a lightweight rope.

In the event of a collision, only broken segments of the light will need replacement, making the repairs up to 80 percent cheaper than the current system.

The system can also be adapted to accommodate traffic monitoring equipment such as digital cameras which will assist law enforcers in spotting offenders.

The first set of the new traffic lights can be seen on the corners of Sandton and Grayston Drives, in Sandton.

According to the JRA, there is a growing global trend towards the legislation of safe road side obstacles particularly traffic signals and street lights.

In an international study conducted by the University of Adelaide in Australia, it was found that 30% of all accidents around the world involve impacts with traffic lights and street lights. Close to three percent of these are fatal.

The JRA's Chris Bruyns says "We at JRA and MTLs are proud that a solution to this global problem has been born and bred in South Africa and Johannesburg in particular being the first city world wide to have installed this system."
