MATA will implement transit signal priority at a majority of all traffic signals in the two highest ridership corridors in the MATA system: (1) Poplar Avenue, and (2) Elvis Presley Blvd/Bellevue Blvd. The project will allow buses to receive priority at traffic signals to reduce the amount of time spent at red lights and improve overall travel time.

This project will improve travel time for approximately 6,000 weekday riders on the two primary routes that operate on these streets (#50-Poplar, and #43-Elvis Presley) as well as four other routes that use these streets for portions of their route. Travel time improvement will make public transportation more competitive with automobile travel, increase fuel economy, and improve air quality.

Transit signal priority on Poplar Avenue will be implemented at a majority of all traffic signals between Front Street and Kirby Parkway (about 40 signals over 13 miles). Transit signal priority on Elvis Presley Blvd. and Bellevue Blvd. will be implemented at a majority of all traffic signals between Union Avenue and the Mississippi State line (about 17 signals over 10 miles). The Global Positioning System (GPS)-enabled emitter devices that communicate with the transit signal priority receivers at signalized intersections will be installed on MATA’s entire fleet of about 140 fixed-route vehicles.

The transit signal priority project has the potential to improve bus travel times in the proposed corridors by 20% which translates into a savings of 5-10 minutes per trip. Reliability will also be enhanced by reducing delays at intersections by up to 40% according to the manufacturer. Further, the project will result in fuel savings and reductions in air pollution, and could increase ridership by as much as 10%.

A contract was awarded to Temple, Inc. on November 26, 2012 in the amount of $949,178.00. The project is expected to be completed by summer of 2013.

02/13/2013