**Abstract**

Some of the world’s busiest streets are infamous for their extreme traffic congestion and disorderly road behavior. Narrow lanes, unregulated parking, and dense flows of rickshaws and vendors routinely block emergency vehicles, even when sirens are on costing lives that could be saved with timely care. To tackle this urgent issue, we, team Dumb Potatoes, tried to develop an **intelligent traffic management system** that gives real-time signal priority to emergency vehicles and uses features like retractable mechanical spikes to clear lanes when needed. By dynamically adjusting traffic flow and creating clear corridors, our system aims to reduce emergency vehicle (ambulance) delays, speed up response times, and make our roads safer and more responsive during emergencies.

**Problem Statement**

Urban traffic congestion is an issue in many cities around Dhaka, causing severe delays in emergency response and daily communications. Throughout peak hours and holiday seasons, urgent-service vehicles frequently become stuck in traffic, delaying critically time‑sensitive care.

A middle-aged man shopping in a crowded market collapsed from sudden chest pain. Miraculously, an ambulance arrived within eight urgent minutes. Paramedics immediately initiated CPR and oxygen treatment inside the speeding ambulance, racing toward the hospital. Soon enough, the man’s vitals stabilized surviving by the nick of time. This incredible survival illustrates an undeniable While one was fortunate, it is not the same for every patient. In April 2022, a stroke patient being transported via ambulance from Brahmanbaria to Dhaka was severely delayed by traffic congestion. The 110 km journey took nearly four hours to reach Dhaka city, and then an additional three hours stuck in inner-city gridlock before arrival at the hospital. During that critical period, the patient's condition deteriorated drastically. He passed away in the ambulance before reaching a medical center. [1]

These conditions make it challenging to accurately assess situations, and our team tried to identify the crippling need for an even more monitored system developed to reduce human labor. The key factors we tried to focus on are:

* Fixed signal timing that fails to adapt to real-time traffic volume or priority vehicles.
* Ambulance services struggle due to congested intersections, reducing survival rates drastically.
* Road users and pedestrians face elevated risk from unpredictable driver behavior when traffic signals are ignored.
* Hawkers and vendors on highways, making drivers more accident prone.
* Lack of enforcement mechanisms to physically reduce illegal road entry.
* Unregulated roadside parking, narrowing lanes.
* Low awareness signaling, excessive honking contributes to chaos and noise pollution.

**Reason for Choosing this Problem**

In Dhaka, nearly **1,000 ambulances** are on the road every day, transporting about **700 critically ill patients.** Severe traffic congestion turns rescue missions into tragic delays. An **ambulance travels for 85 minutes**, and daytime **delays** normally reach up to **102 minutes**. *In emergencies,* ***every second matters****, and rapid response can be the difference between life and death.* As a result, **56% of emergency patients arrive more than one hour after calling for help,** and experts estimate that **approximately 195 lives could be saved each day** if ambulances had reached on time. These prolonged journeys don’t just waste time, they cost lives.

The loss of a loved one makes a devastating impact on family lives. That means each year, **tens of thousands of lives** hang in the balance; caught between the chaos of gridlocked roads and the promise of immediate care. Our goal isn’t just to improve traffic flow, it is to ensure that those precious minutes are won back and critical patients reach help before it's too late. That’s why we chose to work on traffic congestions.

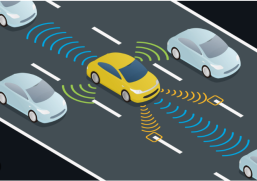
**Robotic Solutions**

Our traffic control system is designed to ensure a safe and sustainable environment, regulating noise and reducing the dependency on human labor. Cameras measure the density of vehicles on every lane, and based on that reading the traffic signals change intervals. If any emergency vehicle is detected, the system creates a clearing of the lane for the vehicle to pass through within a short time. Equipped with a retractable spike mechanism by servo motors, rule violation has immediate consequences. RFID punch cards are identified and noted on a spreadsheet during entry and exit of a vehicle and an amount is calculated to be deducted ensuring payment without human interference. Finally, a silent communication between vehicles through ESP-NOW protocol creates a sustainable environment.

**Key Features**

• Our system runs depending on the present situation and do not rely on regular traffic intervals. This system reduces the need for human interference, and limits need for human labor. The system is fully automated and relies on ongoing vehicles and situations.

• It is equipped with a web camera that captures real-time video, counting the number of vehicles per lane. The system then adjusts green light duration based on density of vehicles, keeping traffic flowing smoothly even in peak hours. The system autonomously manages intersections by processing live traffic camera and sensor data directly at each intersection.

• The system detects approaching ambulances and clears a path by switching signals ahead of them, ensuring they don’t get stuck in traffic and are able to reach destinations faster. This allows emergency vehicles to navigate through traffic without delays, reducing response times.

• Drivers press a button to send real-time alerts via ESP-NOW. The nearby cars instantly flash LED lights instead of honking, reducing noise and improving communication with minimal delay. The system uses **ESP-NOW** protocol, peer-to-peer communication method allowing devices to communicate directly ensuring efficient and real-time data exchange between vehicles.

• If any vehicle violates any traffic rules, an automated spike mechanism will be activated to keep the vehicle in place. This ensures the rules to be followed and the consequences be delivered.

**Value of our Solution and Real-Life Implementations**

Our comprehensive traffic-control system features **adaptive signal control, emergency vehicle preemption, mechanical spike enforcement,** and **RFID-based parking management** delivering measurable improvements in safety, efficiency, and emergency response; which, if implemented accordingly can assist in:

◦ Fast response times for emergency vehicles.

◦`Reduced congestion and travel time.

◦ Efficient and smart parking control.

◦ Immediate rule enforcement.

◦ Easy communication.

◦ Reduced reliance on human labor.

If an ambulance approaching an intersection during rush hour, the system instantly detects its presence via cameras, halts all conflicting traffic, and displays a direct green signal for swift passage. Our solution replaces noisy horn signals with **LED-based alerts,** transforming vehicle communication silent and smooth. RFID-based parking eliminates the need for attendants at entry and exit booths, minimizing manual ticketing and cash handling. Similarly, automated spike deployment and adaptive traffic signals replace on-the-ground traffic controllers who typically direct or enforce rules. This means cities can reallocate personnel from mundane monitoring tasks and focus on higher-value roles like incident response, public outreach, and maintenance.

**Limitations**

◦ Our system don’t detect people walking or biking near intersections. ◦ Vehicles cannot detect from which direction the horn is coming from.

**Components**

#### ESP32:

#### ESP32 is a low-cost, low-power system on a chip- microcontroller with integrated Wi-Fi and dual-mode Bluetooth. It is a microcontroller that can be programmed and be used for specific tasks. The **ESP32** serves as the **main microcontroller** for each vehicle, enabling our **sound‑free horn system** and coordinating real-time traffic communication using **ESP-NOW communication system**.

#### Li – ion Battery:

#### Li-ion batteries are a type of rechargeable battery that uses lithium ions to store and release energy. This works as the power supply of our system. We chose this as it is affordable and enables to store more energy for extended periods without significant capacity loss, benefitting our system.

#### LDR:

#### LDR – Light Detecting Resistor is a type of electronic component whose resistance changes with light intensity. It is a passive electronic component that detects light in its environment.

#### Boost Module – HW-085:

#### HW-085 1.5A Multi-function Mini Step Up Boost ModuleThe HW085 is a voltage regulator that helps adjust and maintain a stable output voltage from a lower input voltage to a higher output voltage. The mini boost converter is converting the lower input voltage to a higher, stable output voltage before distributing it to the other devices.

#### Buzzer:

#### The buzzer is a sounding device that can convert audio signals into sound signals. It works as an indicator for vehicles to move aside if they are in the way of other vehicles or transport.

#### Servo Motor – SG90:

#### A servo motor is a rotary actuator that allows for precise control of angular or linear position, velocity, and acceleration. The servo motor controls the direction of the spike after getting signal from the microcontroller. The reason of choosing it is because it can precisely control the position of the ESP32 Cam by rotating it to a specific angle.

#### Transistor – BC547:

#### The BC547 is a semiconductor device that controls the flow of current or voltage, acting as a switch or amplifier in electronic circuits. The transistor is used in the system to control the flow of electrical power.

#### Paquete de 40 leds difusos 5mm varios colores — Talos ElectronicsLED:

#### LED (Light Emitting Diode), is a small, energy-efficient light source that produces light when an electrical current passes through it. It is used in traffic lights and as the headlights of vehicles. When an emergency vehicle approaches, it sends a signal via ESP-NOW, causing nearby cars to flash an LED beside the driver’s seat as a silent visual alert.

#### IR Sensor:

#### IR Sensor Module – Harish ProjectsAn infrared IR sensor is a device that detects infrared radiation, a type of light invisible to the human eye. It works by emitting IR light and detecting when it's reflected back. It is used to detect vehicles when depositing fee.

#### Availability of Similar Content

Through our research, we found various similar systems designed to address specific challenges in traffic control. Some of them include systems like:

In Bangladesh:

• E-Jam (Electronic Jam/Digital Traffic Congestion Management)

Other Countries:

• SURTAC (Scalable Urban Traffic Control) in Pittsburg, United States.

• SCATS (Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System) in Sydney, Australia**.**

• SCOOT (Split Cycle Offset Optimization Technique) in United Kingdom.

The above systems focus on live traffic signals and ensure that emergency vehicles reach their destinations on time. However, their functionalities often fall short of addressing rule benders and maintaining a less chaotic environment.

Our innovation, …, sets a new standard by seamlessly integrating multiple functionalities into one advanced system. Not only does it gather real-time data of vehicles, but it also delivers an immediate consequence and maintains a sound free environment. Furthermore, a smooth and silent communication between vehicles is established, eliminating the need for blaring horns. All this ensure a safe driving experience as well as plays an efficient role in improving our surroundings.

#### Resources

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