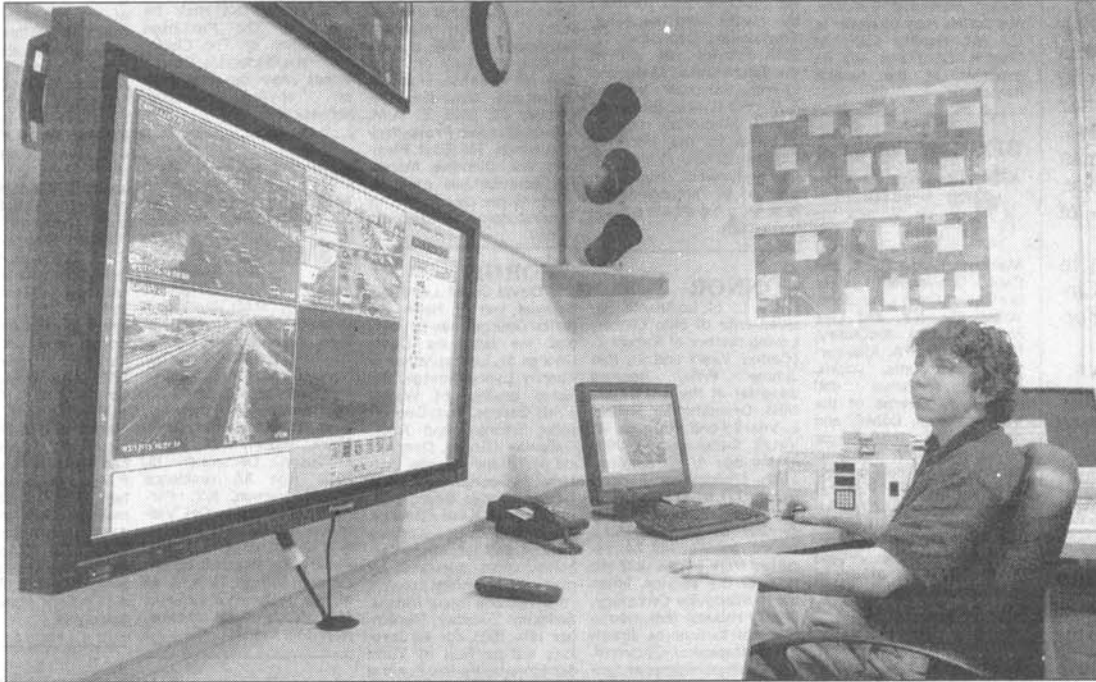


# Tri-County Mall | This is the busy season



The Cincinnati Enquirer/GLENN HARTONG

At the TEC Engineering offices, Aaron Littman can zoom in with multiple cameras to keep an eye on Springdale traffic. He can also manipulate traffic lights to reduce backups.

## Remote monitors keep traffic moving smoothly

By David Eck

Enquirer contributor

**SPRINGDALE** – Each fall, before the first jack-o'-lanterns appear, Springdale and Tri-County Mall officials meet to talk about traffic during the holidays.

Their goal: Make sure drivers on Ohio 747, Kemper Road and other streets, and in the mall lots, move as smoothly as possible.

During the "high season" for Christmas shopping, as many as 150,000 vehicles travel each day on Ohio 747 in front of the mall, and 65,000 on Kemper, Springdale police said. Those numbers rival traffic counts on nearby Interstate 275.

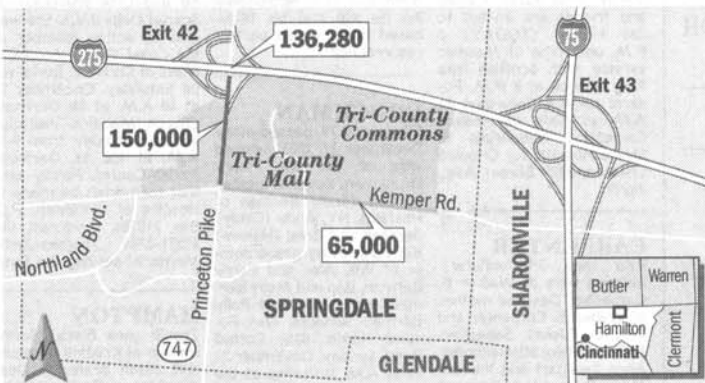
"We start to have meetings in regard to trouble spots from last year," Springdale Police Chief Michael Laage said. "We try and attack it from all different angles."

TEC Engineering, the city's traffic engineering firm, uses cameras mounted near the mall to monitor traffic. TEC can operate the traffic lights remotely to relieve backups.

"We can change timing and patterns from our office," said Ali Saleh, president of TEC Engineering.

### More cars at Tri-County

The holiday season is peak traffic time around the mall as Springdale authorities work to monitor traffic during the congestion between Thanksgiving and January.



Source: Springdale Police Department and ODOT

The Cincinnati Enquirer/ ELIZABETH KANE

"We have a traffic control center in our office."

From Thanksgiving through January, TEC monitors traffic constantly during extended hours and on weekends. New cameras this year allow officials to see the mall's back parking lot and traffic approaching the mall on Ohio 4.

Mall officials say their security

helps traffic flow in the parking lots.

"It's very important to us that customers understand that they're going to be able to get in, find parking and get out with very little inconvenience," said Michael Lyons, Tri-County Mall general manager.

E-mail [daveck@fuse.net](mailto:daveck@fuse.net)