We can change the way people travel all across America.

With one number.

511 can deliver traffic information when and where people need it.

What exactly is 511? Like 411, it's a vital, easy to remember nationwide telephone link. In this case, the vital information is traffic conditions. It's designed to benefit everyone from commuters to tourists to freight shippers. Once in place, it will help people make informed transportation choices, and save lives, time and money.

Making the most of transportation technology.

Having access to instant traffic reports all over the country via one simple number will give travelers alternatives they don't currently have. They would be able to literally steer around emergencies and tie-ups and not add to existing congestion and problems.

The public and private sectors have invested millions of dollars in Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technology to improve mobility and safety on our nation's highways. Three-digit telephone access will make the most of the vast amount of road and traffic information now available to us.

Getting the support you need to implement 511.

If you need to convert an existing number to 511, you're eligible for regular federal aid highway funding. Additionally, as part of the ITS program, $5 million has been set aside to help make the switch. Grants are expected to be made available for approximately $50,000 per state or local jurisdiction.

511 at work in the real world.

The 511 traveler information number would have been helpful recently when Washington, D.C.'s Woodrow Wilson Bridge was closed for hours because of the threat of a jumper. The incident involved two states, the District of Columbia and a number of local jurisdictions. There are at least seven different numbers to call for traveler information in this area alone. (There are over 300 across the country.) Had 511 been in place, one number would have been available throughout the region to provide travelers with the information they needed to avoid the scene. 511 would prove invaluable in the event of a major storm, flooded Metro tracks or any other major or minor disaster.

This is not a federal mandate. It's a state and local responsibility.

We urge you to join us, in your capacity as a state or local transportation official, in our commitment to provide the most efficient public access to travel information. With 511, citizens will have a simple way to make smart, safe transportation choices—from potentially anywhere in the country. Many jurisdictions have already invested in the technology necessary to make 511 a reality.

You can help change the way people travel in your community.

It's in your power to help us save lives, time and money. For up-to-the-minute implementation and grant information, log on to **www.its.dot.gov**

U.S. Department of Transportation

Publication #FHWA-OP-00-027
EDL Doc. #13074