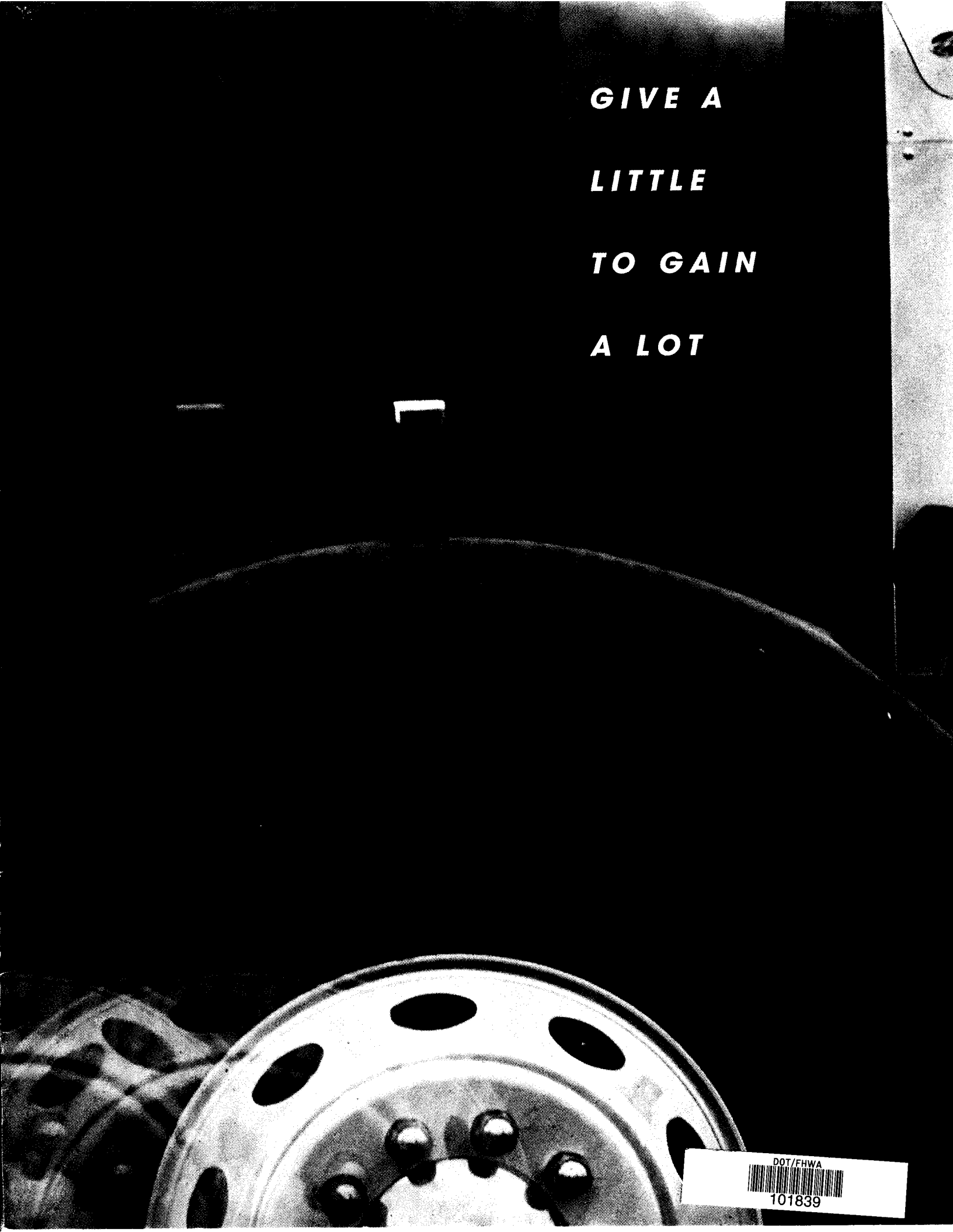
GIVE A LITTLE TO GAIN A LOT



DOT/FHWA
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SAFETY

SIMPLICITY AND

SAVINGS FOR

GOVERNMENT AND

INDUSTRY

ITS/CVO Division of the Office of Motor Carriers
U.S. Department of Transportation

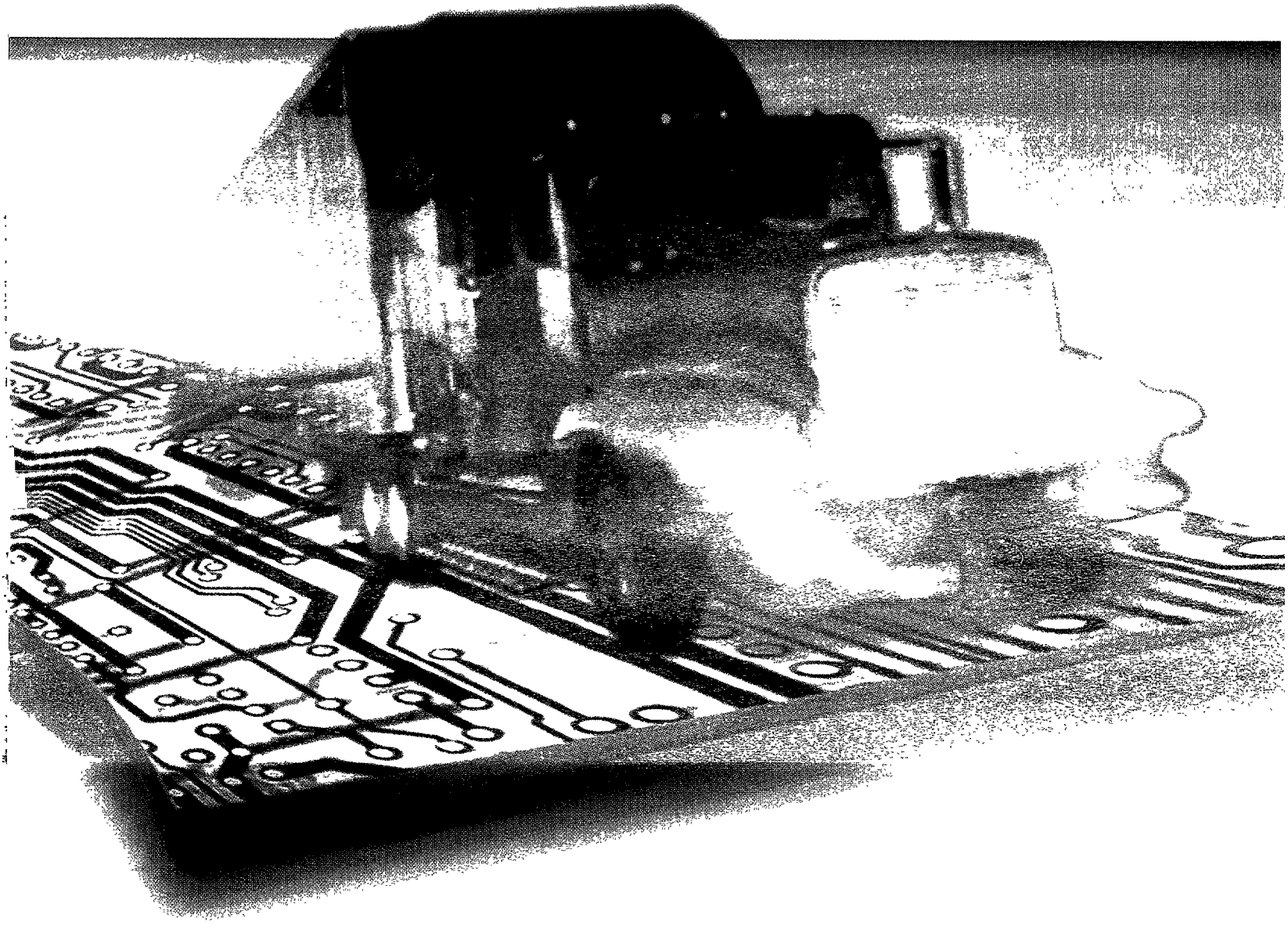
Times Are Changing

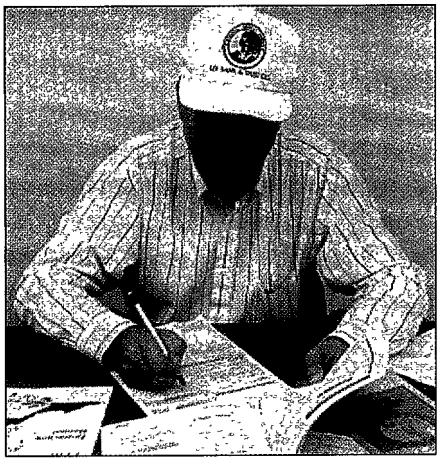
Over the past 40 years, the American freight movement system became the envy of the world. Transportation builders, the motor carrier industry, and government regulators have all worked to keep goods moving safely and efficiently.

Today freight movement is an even more crucial link in the manufacturing and distribution chain. Margins are low and budgets keep shrinking. Other countries-and continents-have caught up. For American business, it's tougher all around.

When products arrive late to market, sales are lost. Industry faces a relentless need for greater operational efficiency, and keeps reinventing itself through such innovations as just-in-time delivery.

Government regulatory processes have not kept up with industry innovation. Streamlining government operations requires vision, time, and money, hard work and cooperation. Until recently, states were able to keep up with the motor carrier industry. Today, however, even though the American public can quickly access information at cash registers, ATM machines, or gas pumps, data exchange through state governments' administrative systems can take days, weeks, or even months.

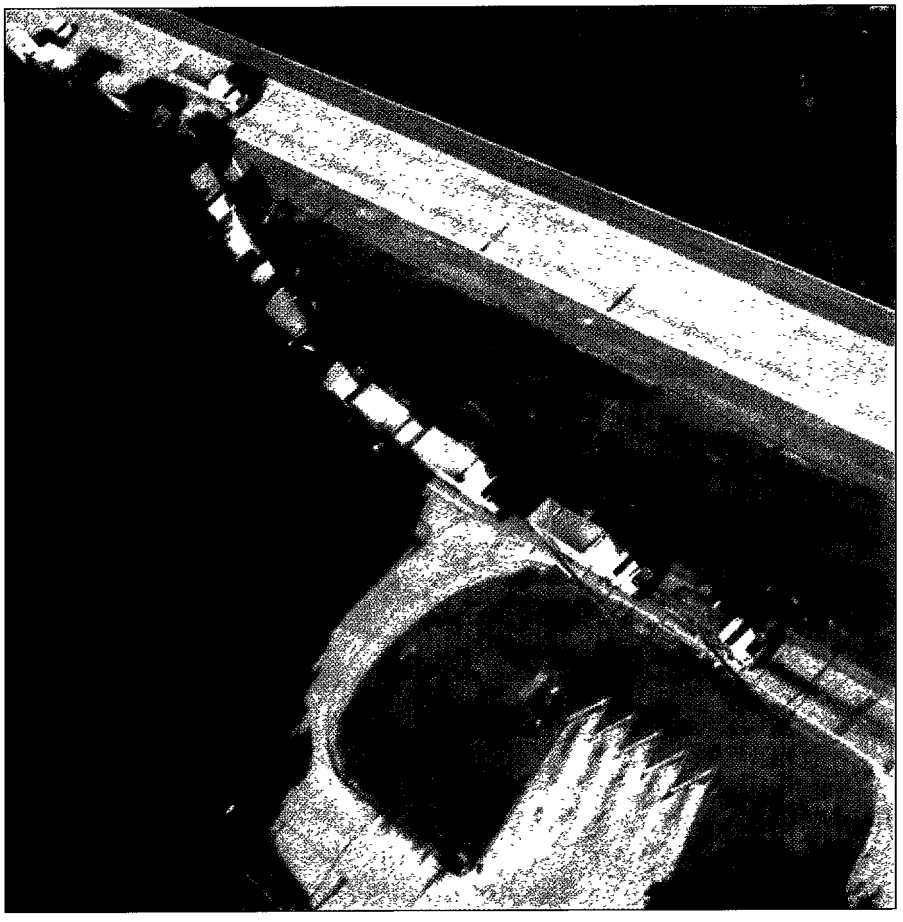




$2 Billion Per Year In Paperwork Alone

Cutting the Cost of Doing Business

State government information systems are often unconnected and incompatible. Paper-based information collection is still commonplace. Regulatory compliance costs motor carriers $2 billion a year in paperwork alone. For their part, state regulatory agencies spend $5 billion a year.



Over The Next Decade Commercial Vehicle Traffic Will Increase By 50 Percent.

Commercial vehicle traffic is not standing still. Overall, traffic is expected to grow by 50 percent and miles traveled by all vehicles will increase 25 percent over the next decade.

Government responsibilities increase yearly, but budgets continue to shrink. The challenge is how to differentiate between unsafe carriers and compliant ones, collect fees and taxes, and enforce size and weight policies efficiently enough to keep up with the evolving business environment.

When government and industry operate in isolation or opposition, this challenge can not be met. Communications and information exchange are just too inefficient. Cooperative relationships-and information technology-are the only way to reduce costs and improve safety.

That's why several years ago, people in the Office of Motor Carriers of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), state governments and motor carrier industry leaders began questioning how to serve the American public through government-industry partnerships that improve safety while also supporting industry profitability and the country's competitive edge.

Technology and Cooperation Yield New Solutions

The Intelligent Transportation Systems/Commercial Vehicle Operations (ITS/CVO) Division in the Office of Motor Carriers was established in 1994 to create a voluntary, consensus-based program that uses technology to eliminate the snarls in government administrative systems and simplify life for safe and compliant motor carriers.

At the same time, the ITS/CVO Division began funding research and testing better ways to do business. They asked two questions:

What can people do better?
How can technology help?

The government officials, industry leaders, and drivers who embarked on this mission have learned that they share similar goals: to improve safety, simplify operations, and increase savings. Together they have hammered out a common vision and forged a commitment to work out differences as they arise.

For its part, FHWA is becoming less prescriptive and more responsive to state and local concerns. The Office of Motor Carriers has redefined its role from that of solely a regulator to one of regulator, educator, and partner. In the past four years, government and industry together have explored new solutions such as electronic screening, electronic data interchange, and electronic one-stop shopping.

More states and motor carriers are now becoming involved in the public/private partnership that has brought us this far. The lesson learned is clear: those within government and industry who are willing to give a little, are going to gain a lot.

Government And Industry Cooperation Improves Safety And Increases Savings

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS/COMMERCIAL VEHICLE OPERATIONS

US Department of Transportation

Projects Demonstrate ITS/CVO Benefits

The ITS/CVO program involves government, industry, and academia participating in more than 100 operational tests, research and demonstration projects, prototypes, and pilot projects. Such federally supported projects include:

Advantage I-75

An operational test by public and private sector partners that allows transponder-equipped trucks to travel the entire length of Interstate 75 at mainline speeds with no more than one stop at a weigh station to verify weight compliance and credential status.

Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks (CVISN)

A federal program linking government and private sector information systems and communications networks to allow interstate exchange of commercial vehicle safety, credential, tax, and screening information.

Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS)

A software system that allows states to access a nationwide database of commercial vehicle driver license information.

Green Light

This Oregon DOT project will electronically verify safety and weight information of drivers, vehicles, and carriers from fixed and mobile roadside sites at highway speeds and provide commercial vehicle operators with road condition, weather, and downhill speed information.

International Border Clearance

Projects will demonstrate electronic screening of commercial vehicles at Otay Mesa, CA, Nogales, AZ, and Santa Teresa, NM border crossings with Mexico, and at the Detroit, MI, Buffalo, NY, Sweetgrass, MT, and Blaine, WA border crossings with Canada.

International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA)

Under this agreement, 47 member states have developed uniform interstate fuel use tax reporting systems. Motor carriers are allowed to pay the taxes for all or part of their fleet in their base state rather than in every state where they do business. Information is then available to other participating states.

International Registration Plan (IRP)

This agreement provides for vehicle registration reciprocity among member jurisdictions. Members include most states and Canada.

Multi-Jurisdictional Automated Preclearance System (MAPS)

This system features one-stop truck permitting and weigh stations with compatible automatic vehicle identification devices in Idaho, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

Operation RESPOND (Hazardous Materials Response System)

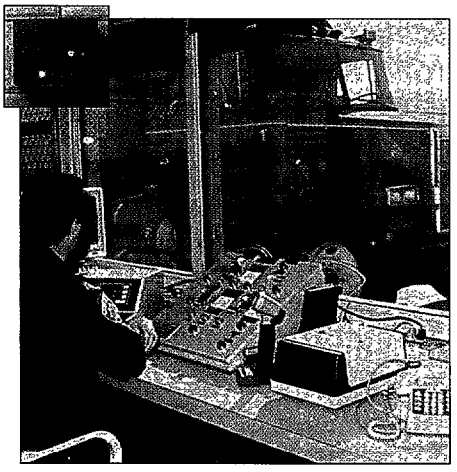
This project is designed to speed the exchange of critical information during the initial response to hazardous materials accidents. The system is being expanded to establish computerized information systems for emergency and participating railroads and motor carriers serving Mexican and Canadian border crossings.

Safety and Fitness Electronic Records System (SAFER)

This system, available to users over a nationwide data network, returns a standard carrier safety fitness record to the requestor within a few seconds and can be accessed from roadside inspection sites via portable computers.

Safety, Simplicity, and Savings for Government and Industry

The national ITS/CVO program is beginning to benefit government and industry alike-in the office, at the roadside, and in the vehicle.



In The Vehicle - Electronic Screening And Two- Way Communications Allow Compliant Drivers To Keep Moving

Government:

- Allows scarce personnel and resources to be focused on unsafe carriers and drivers

- Administrative processes can be simplified and streamlined

- ITS technology costs less to install, operate, and maintain than new facility and highway construction

- Revenues and taxes can be monitored and collected more efficiently

- Allows office and field staff to have immediate access to current safety, inspection, credential, and payment information

Industry:

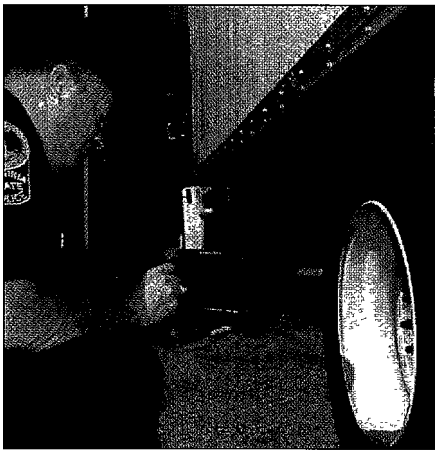
- Fewer required stops means less time lost in weigh station lines

- Less wear and tear on engine, clutch, brakes, and drive train due to entering and exiting weigh stations

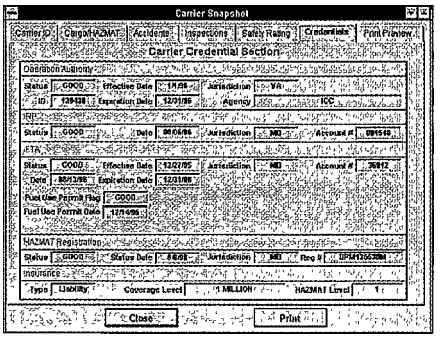
- Electronic application for credentials and registration and payment of taxes means less waiting in lines

- Administrative costs are lowered because applications can be filed and taxes paid electronically from an office computer

- On-board safety monitoring equipment can alert motor carriers and drivers of accidents or malfunctions before they happen



At The Roadside -Portable Computers Improve The Information Gathering And Dissemination Process In Roadside Safety



In The Office-Standardized Electronic Data Interchange Reduces Pwperwork And Saves Time

Law Enforcement:

- Inspectors can focus their attention on unsafe carriers and drivers

- Field inspectors equipped with portable computers have access to the latest safety and inspection information on a driver, vehicle, or carrier

- Fewer staff can administer more vehicles and carriers

- Safety and inspection information will be transmitted and retrieved across agency and state lines

The Traveling Public:

- Less congestion near highway weigh stations

- Unsafe motor carriers are spotted and taken off the road more consistently

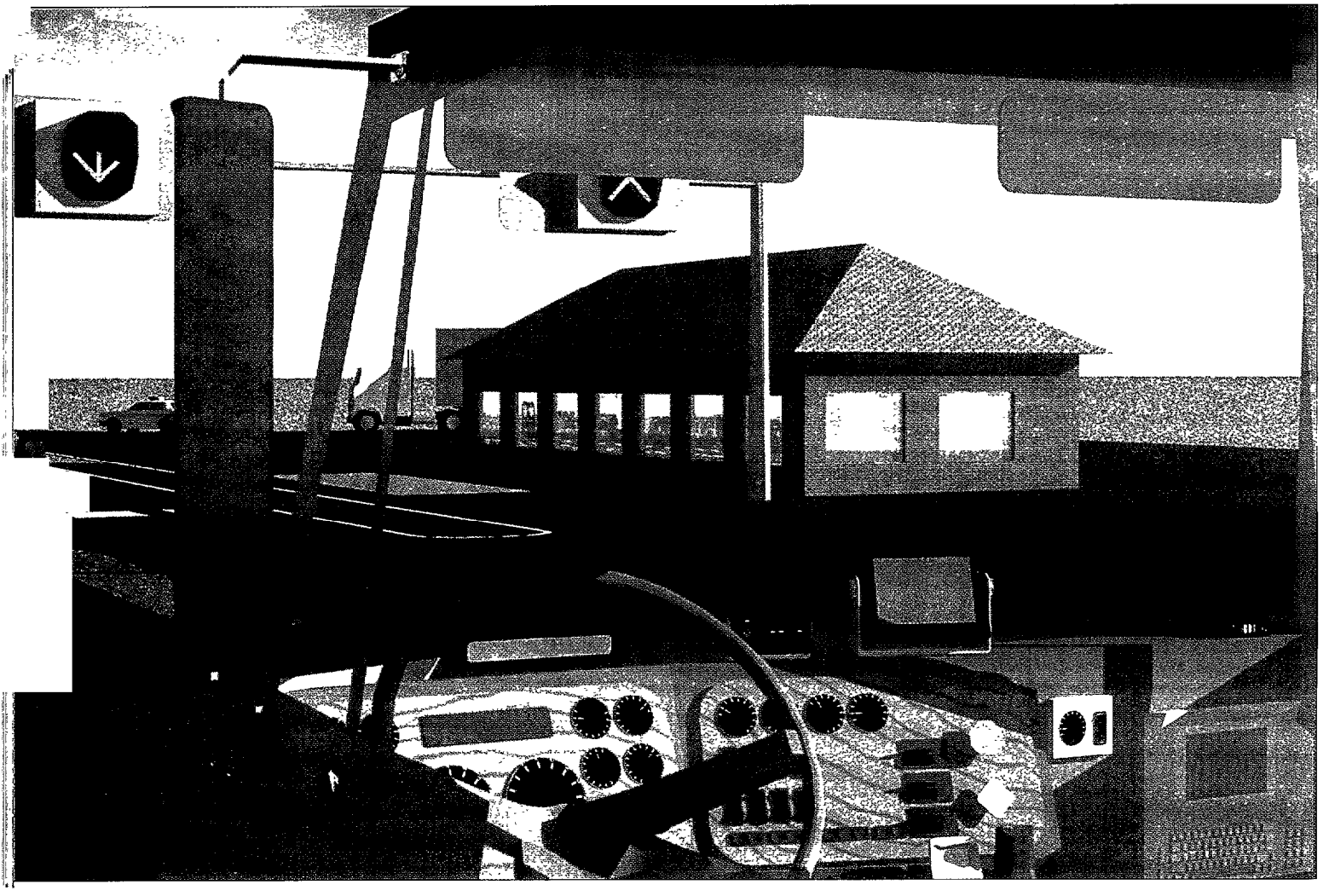
- Government operates more efficiently, saving tax dollars

Give A Little To Gain A Lot

ITS/CVO solutions require government and industry to adopt new perspectives. The enabling technologies help a lot, yet the new relationships being fostered are even more important. Building trust takes commitment.

It is now time for those who seek greater safety on America's highways, simpler administrative relationships between government and motor carriers, and more cost-effective operating efficiencies for government and industry to step forward. That's the only way to discover that the rewards are worth the effort.

Safety, simplicity, and savings. For government and industry.



Safe And Compliant Trucks Equipped With Transponders Spend Less Time Sitting In Weigh Station Lines.

Need More Information?

Contact Your Local Office of Motor Carriers Field Office

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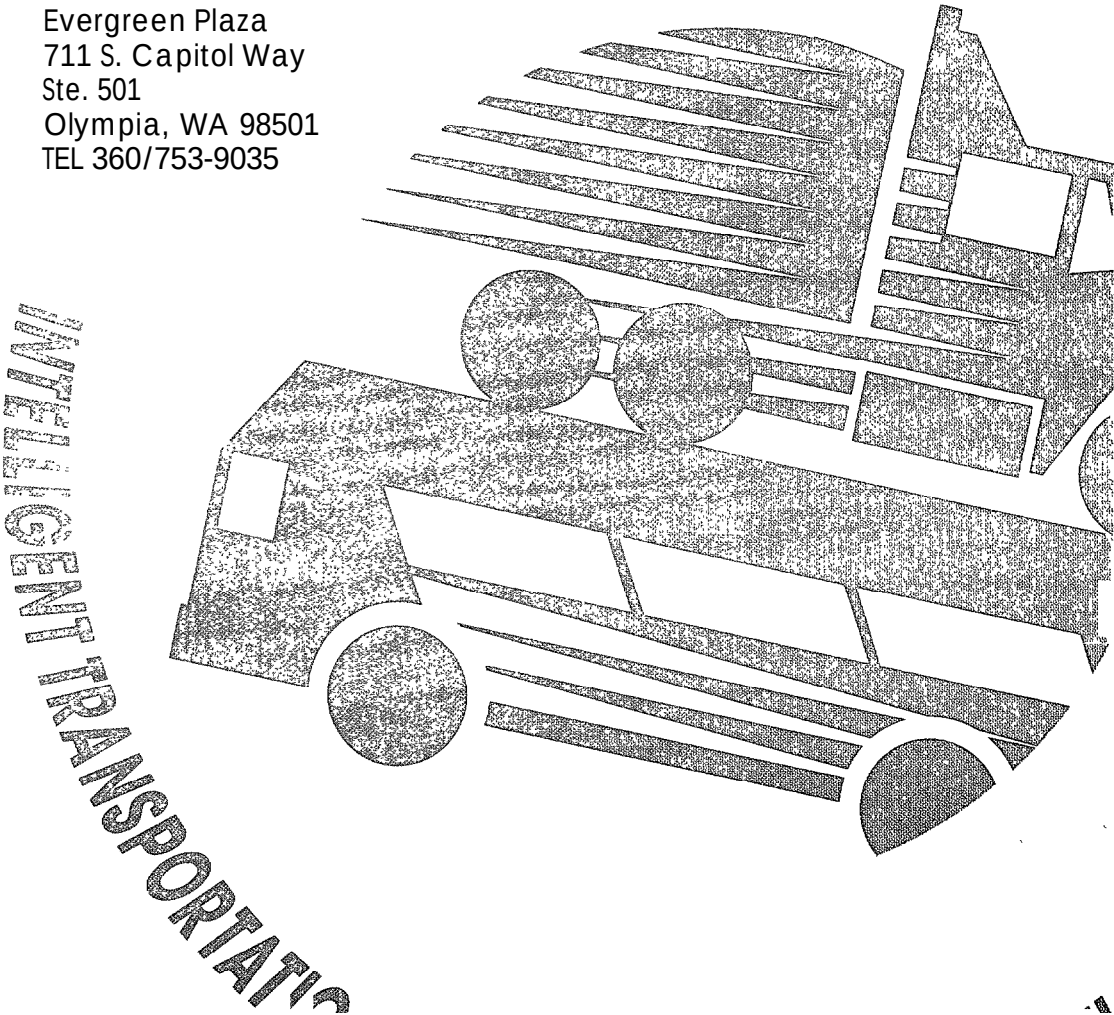
Internet
Access the ITS/CVO Internet site of the Office of Motor Carriers for a list of state, association, and project contacts: http://www.avalon-ais.com/itscvo



Intelligent Transportation Systems for Commercial Vehicle Operations

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