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July 20, 1999 **DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL**

The Honorable William E. Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RECEIVED**

**JUL 21 1999**

**FCC MAIL ROOM**

Dear Mr. Chairman:

RE: Petition for N11 Allocation,  
File No. NSD-L-99-24 & CC Docket No. 92-105

I am writing to support the U.S. Department of Transportation's petition for a nationwide abbreviated dialing code to provide traveler information to the public. Providing traveler information to the public via an easy-to-remember, nationwide telephone number would help meet Utah's transportation needs.

As Utah continues to grow, so does the challenge of mobility. In the past decade, traffic on roads and highways has increased by nearly 30 percent and is estimated to increase by another 50 percent within the next 10 years.

In Utah, we are working to meet the transportation needs of our customers, and one tool is the ITS program. We are deploying a vast ITS infrastructure in the Salt Lake Valley to include three integrated traffic control centers; freeway and surface street sensors; signals, signs, and cameras; and connections to the Department of Public Safety Dispatch as well as to the Utah Transit Authority. This integrated system represents partnerships to manage traffic for over 11 cities in the area as well as the Salt Lake County. Our new Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Traffic Operations Center opened in April 1999, providing limited traffic management and traveler information. We envision our facility to be a major coordination point during the 2002 Olympics as well as statewide.

Our partners and us collectively named this integrated system CommuterLink for its focus on assisting travelers and commuters with technology. As the system becomes more fully deployed, the emphasis on real-time traveler information will increase. We are currently providing information to travelers through our dynamic message signs, highway advisory radio, local television traffic reporters, a web page, and a telephone hotline. We are pursuing additional features in these areas as well as partnerships for a cable television traffic channel and FM radio.

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The Honorable William E. Kennard, Chairman

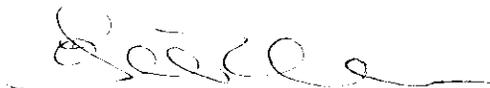
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I took this time to quickly describe our program for two reasons. The first is to point out the multitude of ITS activities that we currently are deploying with the focus on improving traffic management and traveler information. This is an investment in nearly \$100 million for transportation services to help meet our customers' needs. The second reason is to mention the various numbers of partners that we are bringing together in our integrated system. Though UDOT is the leader in the system deployment, we are cooperating with many agencies and jurisdictions to deliver service that is transparent to the customer. The traditional alternative is for each agency to deploy systems independently for their jurisdiction and each disseminate traveler information uniquely to the user. This alternative has led us to have 12 separate telephone numbers for receiving information on construction, road conditions, general transportation information, incidents, transit service, snow and avalanche conditions, etc.

With CommuterLink, we want to streamline the effort for the public. We are striving to consolidate telephone numbers, but there still is much room for improvement. A nationwide N11 telephone number would provide a more easily remembered number for the public, both here as well as wherever they travel in the United States. As more of the public recalls the number, their access to the information will increase; and they will then be able to make better, more informed decisions. The Federal Communications Commission will be helping us to improve customer service in Utah and throughout the country. Therefore, I urge you to give positive consideration to this petition.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Warne, P.E.  
Executive Director

TRW/MK/jbl