

DCHC

DURHAM • CHAPEL HILL • CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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 Town of Chapel Hill
 County of Chatham
 City of Durham
 County of Durham
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 N.C. Department of
 Transportation
 County of Orange

August 9, 1999

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
 Secretary
 Federal Communications Commission
 Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W.
 Suite TW-A325
 Washington, DC 20554

Mr. Al McCloud
 Network Services Division
 Federal Communications Commission
 Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W.
 Room 6-A320
 Washington, DC 20554

RE: File No. NSD-L-99-24 and CC Docket No. 92-105

Dear Ms. Salas/Mr. McCloud:

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) is the agency responsible for transportation planning for a three county urban area in North Carolina. The DCHC MPO endorses the U.S. Department of Transportation's petition for a three-digit (N11) national telephone number for traffic and traveler information services. The establishment of a nationally recognized communications tool linking the general public with vital traveler information represents an important step towards fulfilling the DCHC MPO's efficiency goals.

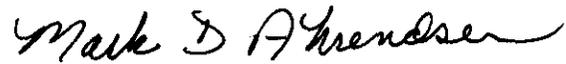
Although the DCHC MPO does not have a traveler information system in place at this time, the availability of a nationally recognized number could facilitate any future efforts to provide schedule/route, and real-time traveler information in our community. The assignment of a single, three digit dialing code nationwide would enable more visitors and community residents to recall the number to access and use travel-related information. Also greater access would enable travelers to make smarter decisions on when, where, and how to reach their destinations.

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One of the most important issues facing all of us in the transportation arena is safety. The congestion problems facing ours and most other metropolitan areas today represent a major obstacle in allowing us to meet our safety goals. We recognize that we must rely on available technology to inform the public about when and how to travel.

While we realize that N11 codes are a scarce resource, traveler information is one of only a few applications that would be of service to practically all our citizens. Virtually the entire population uses the transportation system every day and can use this service to make their travel safer, faster, and more efficient, thereby improving their quality of life. Therefore, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization supports the idea of a national three-digit number as part of a fully integrated traveler information system, including public transportation.

Sincerely,



Mark D. Ahrendsen, Chair
Technical Coordinating Committee
DCHC MPO

cc: TCC Members