Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Designation of 211 and 511 as Abbreviated Dialing Arrangements	)	CC Docket No. 92-105
	)	

COMMENTS OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) hereby submits its comments on the status of 511 to determine whether the 211 and 511 dialing codes are being utilized in the manner for which they were assigned. CALTRANS submits these comments on behalf of the 511 partnerships in California in response to the nationwide 511 deployment, the national telephone number for traffic and traveler information, by 2010 was legislated in the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETY-LU Section 5201 (B)).

I. 511 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Today 12.9 million Californians have access to 511, with another 18 million gaining access in 2007. The regional 511 traveler information systems will be serving 90% of California by this time next year. 511 is a basic government service, augmenting and improving private sector traffic and traveler information offered by commercial broadcasters, navigation companies, etc. California has four operational regional 511 services in the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento-

Northern California, San Diego and the Eastern Sierras. Two more will launch in 2007: Southern California and Central California.

Caltrans and its regional partners work together to provide accurate and timely information to travelers. 511 provides information via telephone, internet, highway changeable message signs, commercial/media broadcasts and GPS (Global Positioning Systems) in car dashboards. We are also considering, as now done in a few other states, providing 511 traffic, incident, and weather delays via email and pager notification.

Travelers with real-time information adjust their trip plans to avoid traffic congestion, road work and weather delays. They change departure times, their routes, or even their travel mode to safely reach their destination on time with less stress. Travelers can save time, money and reduce frustration by receiving up-to-date information they can use to plan their trips.

Caltrans and its transportation partners benefit from improved operations since many travelers will adjust their travel plans by avoiding extremely congested areas, taking other routes and travel modes. The California economy loses $4.4 billion per year to traffic congestion. Californians waste 6.2 million gallons of fuel and create 187,000 tons of air emissions on congested freeways. And with current investments to rebuild and expand highways are at a record $7.1 billion this year, 511 is ever more critical to help travelers. For every $1 spent on 511, the State reaps $15 from reduced congestion, improved air quality and economic growth, according to the Governor's GoCalifornia initiative.

San Francisco Bay Area

The Bay Area 511 partnership is operated by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for the nine Bay Area counties, Caltrans and the Highway Patrol, and serves 7.1 million.

Sacramento and Northern California

The Sacramento Region 511 is operated by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments in partnership with Caltrans. This 511 service extends from the Oregon and Nevada borders, and along the Pacific Coast north of the Bay Area, south to Bakersfield. It provides traffic and transit information to 8 million people.

San Diego

511 launched in early 2007 under the leadership of the San Diego Association of Governments in partnership with Caltrans. It covers both San Diego and Imperial counties, serving some 4 million people.

Southern California

The Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority is starting official 511 service in 2007. They lead a partnership with the counties of Ventura, San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange as well as Caltrans and the Southern California Regional Railroad Authority. Wireless 511 service has already been established to the legacy 'Commute Smart' service (800-COMMUTE, or 800-266-6883). Full 511

service with real-time traffic meeting national 511 guidelines are in the final stages of contracting, with deployment in the next six months.

Eastern Sierra

The counties of Inyo and Mono are geographically separated from the rest of California by the Sierra Nevada mountains, with 38,000 population and large inter-regional trucking and tourism traveler information needs. Caltrans implemented 511 services in May 2007.

Central Coast

The coastal counties from Santa Cruz down to Santa Barbara have a number of hurdles to deploy 511. The wireless service providers route calls to the Bay Area and/or Southern California. Neither the Bay Area nor Southern California carry Central Coast content on their 511 services. The transit and rideshare agencies would like 511, and need to decide how to fund/operate the 511 service. Caltrans is funding a 511 planning study on how to address these issues.

II. CONCLUSION

California is working diligently with our partners to meet the Federal deadline of 2010 to deploy 511. We support and expand multimodal regional ATIS/511 partnerships, we initiate and champion innovative public and public-private partnerships to provide travelers with the tools they need to make the best

possible travel decision. In the words of the Caltrans motto, “We’re here to get you there”.

Thank you for permitting us to comment on our 511 implementation efforts.

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