

To the FCC and interested parties, The Texas Dept. of Transportation operates 11 HARS radio system licenses used to warn the traveling public of traveling hazards on the roads of Texas.

The Texas Dept of Transportation (TxDOT) supports RM11514 in expanding the allowable programming material which is currently restricted by 90.242(a)(7) in the FCC regulations.

TxDOT desires the ability to communicate expanded programming information such as Amber Alerts, weather information (not just weather alerts) and some limited, non-commercial traveler information on the highways we are entrusted with, to travelers in the State of Texas.

In the City of El Paso area, TxDOT has 11 HARS radios that would be very useful in communicating homeland security events and issues as well as traveler or weather information.

However, we do not support the changing the radio service name to "Local Government Radio Service" as it is not really needed since in the majority of cases, listeners to be reached will be travelers in their cars.

By changing the name, some agencies may be tempted to broadcast programming which may belong on news media broadcasts rather than a government warning or alert system.

Needed is the addition of wording to expand the allowed programming to include "noncommercial information" and messages relating to such things as Department of Homeland Security initiatives such as Citizen Corps and Ready.gov as well as weather NOAA broadcasts, Amber Alerts and expanded traveler information.

The programming should not be expanded to include broadcasts that may compete with private or commercial radio broadcasts of news reports, meetings and the like.

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FCC License Coordinator

