



NEWS

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FCC ALLOCATES SPECTRUM IN 5.9 GHz RANGE FOR INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS USES Action Will Improve the Efficiency of the Nation's Transportation Infrastructure

Washington, D.C. -- The FCC today allocated 75 megahertz of spectrum for intelligent transportation services to improve highway safety and efficiency as part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's "Intelligent Transportation Systems" (ITS) national program.

In a Report and Order adopted today, the FCC decided to use the 5.850-5.925 GHz band for a variety of Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) uses, such as traffic light control, traffic monitoring, travelers' alerts, automatic toll collection, traffic congestion detection, emergency vehicle signal preemption of traffic lights, and electronic inspection of moving trucks through data transmissions with roadside inspection facilities.

DSRC systems are being designed to provide a short range, wireless link to transfer information between vehicles and roadside systems. These links will be essential to many ITS services that are expected to improve traveler safety, decrease traffic congestion, and facilitate the reduction of air pollution and conservation of fossil fuels. The FCC said providing additional spectrum for ITS services would further the goals of Congress, the Department of Transportation and the ITS industry to improve the efficiency of the U.S. transportation infrastructure and to facilitate the growth of the ITS industry.

The FCC said that the record indicates that the spectral environment and propagation characteristics of the 5.9 GHz band are appropriate for short range DSRC applications and would enable sufficient signal coverage and considerable frequency reuse.

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The 75 megahertz allocation for DSRC could foster global research, technological innovations, and industry standards-setting activities that are expected to result in the production of affordable DSRC equipment. Further, it is hoped that a significant DSRC allocation will encourage wide-area or nationwide interoperability and the continued development of DSRC services and the emerging ITS industry.

The FCC deferred consideration of licensing and service rules to a later proceeding. It invited the ITS industry and the DOT to recommend licensing requirements and a channelization plan that will satisfy the needs for various DSRC applications.

The Commission was originally petitioned by the Intelligent Transportation Society of America, which proposed this allocation for ITS services to increase the safety and efficiency of the Nation's transportation.

Action by the Commission October 21, 1999, by Report and Order (FCC 99-305). Chairman Kennard, Commissioners Ness, Furchtgott-Roth, Powell, and Tristani.

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