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Secretary Pena Names Eight States Participating In Intelligent Transportation Project for Trucking

ORLANDO, Fla. - At the third annual World Congress on Intelligent Transportation Systems, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena today named eight states that have been selected to serve as models in an intelligent transportation system project that will enable states to share information electronically with trucking companies.

They will participate in what is called the Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks (CVISN) model deployment project, a part of the department's intelligent transportation systems (ITS) commercial vehicle operations (CVO) program.

"The use of intelligent transportation systems will ease traffic congestion on our highways, help protect the environment and improve the quality of life for commuters," Secretary Pena said. "President Clinton's commitment to invest in technology will bring intelligent transportation systems to the motor carrier industry, enhancing safety and making commerce more efficient."

Representing seven regions, the states participating in the pilot project are Connecticut, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Colorado, Washington, Oregon and California. Each of the regional pilot states, with Washington and Oregon working as partners, will match federal grants of **\$1** million awarded over a two-year period.

The goal of CVISN is to apply technology to create a national data interchange among states and the motor carrier industry that will enable participants to share information electronically.

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In his remarks to the ITS World Congress, Secretary Pena noted that Congress **30** years ago told the new Department of Transportation to bring technology to the mammoth task of improving the transportation system. Americans lose 2 billion hours a year to gridlock. Congestion costs the U.S. economy \$48 billion a year, and it is becoming a drain on growth and productivity. There are 6.5 million traffic crashes in the United States every year, and in a decade there will be a 50 percent increase in traffic.

Today's announcement represents the culmination of the first phase of this project. Remaining to be completed in this phase are technical training and workshops to prepare state personnel who will be responsible for the project.

The second phase, which is expected to be completed in early 1999, will last about two years and will result in a national electronic data interchange network. This network will enable government agencies, the motor carrier industry and others engaged in commercial vehicle safety and regulation to exchange information and conduct business transactions electronically.

Throughout both phases, the eight pilot states will document their experiences, learn from them and benefit from technology demonstrated for them periodically by the two prototype states, Maryland and Virginia.

In addition, there will be a process for evaluating concepts, products, costs and benefits. Results of the evaluation process, along with the CVISN prototype "lessons learned," will be used to formulate standards to guide the national deployment of CVTSN and ensure technology compatibility throughout North America.

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