



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**AS TRAFFIC CONGESTION CONTINUES TO GROW
AS A PROBLEM FOR DRIVERS, SO TOO IT GROWS
AS A STATE AND LOCAL CAMPAIGN ISSUE**

VTIC Promotes State and Local Cooperation to Advance Solutions

(Washington, D.C. – December 15, 2006) “As traffic congestion rates grow nationwide, congestion also grows as an election issue,” said Mike Kanger, executive director of the Vehicle Traffic Information Coalition (VTIC), www.real-timetraffic.com, a coalition of leading real-time traffic market industry players. “From the east coast – with last year’s race for governor in Virginia and this year in Connecticut and Maryland – to the west coast – with ballot initiatives in California and Washington, traffic congestion is getting airtime with voters. “Road rage politics will continue to surge as an election issue in the next few cycles.” For example, today’s Washington Post reports that Virginia’s governor plans to use transportation as an issue to unseat state legislators in “traffic-choked areas in the upcoming election cycle (“Kaine to Seek \$500 Million Bid to Alleviate VA’s Traffic Ills”).

“We believe the tools currently exist for state and local officials to be successful in the fight against congestion. The solutions are two-fold: Federal-Aid Highway Funding which allows for real-time infrastructure investments and Public-Private Partnerships. VTIC and its members are encouraging partnerships with state and local officials looking to tackle these problems.” The Federal-Aid Highway Program is a federally-funded, state administered program. Small investments in real-time traffic capabilities can empower millions of drivers and traffic managers to prevent and rationally respond to congestion.

The 2005 report by the Federal Highway Administration, *Traffic Congestion and Reliability: Trends and Advanced Strategies for Congestion Mitigation*, reveals a disturbing trend. The report illustrates that congestion has increased „substantially for cities of all sizes in the United States during the past 20 years, with no end to the problems in sight.

“The progress to date by some transportation agencies utilizing real-time traffic data has been outstanding, but it is only a much needed start. Traffic center enhancements and reliance on newer technologies is all built on robust and widely available traffic data,” continued Kanger.

ABOUT THE VEHICLE TRAFFIC INFORMATION COALITION (VTIC)

VTIC is a coalition of leading real-time traffic market industry companies.

VTIC's members range from automotive to navigation and technology companies that

provide a range of real-time traffic information, services, products and infrastructure – ESRI, Honda, Mark IV, NAVTEQ, Nissan, TeleCommunication Systems (TCS), Tele Atlas, Toyota, Traffic.com, Volkswagen, Wavetronix and XM Satellite Radio. The coalition's mission is to promote real-time traffic at the Federal, state and local levels. For more information visit www.real-timetraffic.com.

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