

The Source Information Radio Newsletter

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Please don't go!

Kentucky County Advises Motorists When to *Not* Enter the Interstate

LA GRANGE, KY: Ramp metering controls the rate at which drivers merge onto a busy thoroughfare. But Oldham County Kentucky is going one step farther by advising motorists when not to enter their busy highway – at all!

The County, adjacent to Louisville, is bisected by Interstate 71, a major commute route into and out of the city. When a major incident backs up I-71 traffic, unaware drivers often inadvertently add to the congestion and cost themselves time by entering the fray at one of the County's four interstate interchanges. Now, eight wirelessly controlled, solar-powered signs have been installed in advance of the associated entrance ramps to tell people to stay on the surface streets when interstate gridlock sets in.

When activated, the signs' 12" amber beacons flash to attract attention, while "Stealth Sign" LED insets can be independently selected to advise against going north, south or both north and south.

Designed in coordination with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the unique system is controlled on a VHF frequency from Oldham County Emergency Management's 911 Center at La Grange, Kentucky.

When Ice Cometh

Motorist Advisories Are Triggered Instantly when Conditions Get Dickey

KINGMAN, AZ: When Hualapai Mountain Road near Kingman, Arizona, becomes treacherous due to ice, county officials don't need to concern themselves with changing the messages being broadcast on the County's Highway Advisory Radio Station. It all happens automatically.

Conditions on the steep, two-lane road often change without warning. When ice is detected, pavement sensors trigger a paging burst that is relayed to an [ALERT AM Advisory Radio Station](#) on the mountaintop that instantly switches its broadcast to exclusively air warning messages to motorists. When conditions improve, the station's broadcast goes back to normal, all without

operator intervention. The same wireless cue has the capability of triggering other devices such as flashing beacons/LED signs in concert with the radio station's message change.

The Information Radio service was installed by Mohave County's Public Works Department in 2017 to advise commuters who use the steep mountain road that dangerous ice is present on the pavement. A secondary goal is to enhance safety for visitors approaching or leaving the popular Mohave County Regional Park, which sits atop the mountain, some 3000 feet above the city. Hualapai Mountain Road is the sole means of getting to the park – and often more importantly - back down the mountain.

States Mohave County's Traffic Control Supervisor Gregg Whaley, "This radio application proves a successful addition to the County's motorist information network, in the observation of Public Works, road users and citizens served."

The FCC Wants Your Opinion

WASHINGTON DC: Technology advances have been responsible for music listeners departing the AM band over the years to listen to FM radio, satellite radio and internet streams. Now, the FCC wants us all to consider what would happen if AM radio stations had the option to broadcast in full digital (M3) technology. Would we buy a \$200 receiver to see if our favorite AM station has returned to rock 'n roll?

The [American Association of Information Radio Operators \(AAIRO\)](#) is opposed to the FCC's "Notice of Inquiry" on the matter due to the severe interference digital stations would present to other radio stations that share the band. [Read AAIRO's position here](#) and send along your comments to include with the filing.

Or file on your own at this link: [Media Bureau Docket RM-11836](#). The filing deadline is May 13, 2019.

See also [Radio World's](#) article "FCC Wants Your Input on Digital-Only AM Proposal" by Susan Ashworth, Apr 22, 2019.

DelDOT's Innovative Highway Radio Service Featured in National Article

DOVER, DE: This state's Department of Transportation continues to build a Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) system that stands apart from similar systems in the other 49 states. Due to its limited geography and high population density, Delaware has been able to accomplish something not possible elsewhere: virtual statewide signal coverage that reaches millions of motorists.

Recently, *Radio World* magazine featured DelDOT in a national article, which put the spotlight on their system's unique character:

Today, Delaware is the only state that:

1. Purchased and operates a former AM broadcast station – rebranded “WTMC - 1380” operating at 250 watts in Wilmington, Delaware - as the centerpiece of their HAR network.
2. Blankets the state with a single highway radio information program on synchronized 10-watt “repeater” stations, to create border-to-border service on the 1380 AM frequency.
3. Operates within the conventional AM band on Frequency 1380. (Most HAR stations are at the ends of the band (530 kHz or 1610-1700 kHz).
4. Also simulcasts on an FM translator. The WTMC programming is also heard on 98.5 FM in the Wilmington area.

[See WTMC, DelDOT's Statewide Highway Advisory Radio Network, on line.](#)

See also from *Radio World*, "[DelDOT Believes in the Power of Radio](#)" by James Careless, Apr 9, 2019.

North Dakota DOT's AM 1610

PEMBINA, ND: Motorists on I-29 entering the US from Canada will now receive information via car radio as they come across the border utilizing an [ITS6000 Highway Advisory Radio System](#).

The plan is to get motorists better informed about procedures and documents before they arrive.

Additionally, I-29 traffic lines into the US can be lengthy at times. Helping drivers avoid delays is another goal of the service. This new station joins others on the Canadian border and a half dozen operated by Customs and Border Patrol on the US / Mexican border

[See "Radio Crosses the Line" in *The Source*.](#)

Reagan National Airport Replaces 1970's 530 AM Service

WASHINGTON, DC: The Airport's new [Information Station IP station](#) boasts full 5000 Hz bandwidth and is operated via wireless IP from the Airport's offices, allowing Airport officials to update ground travelers on construction projects underway and to issue safety advisories immediately when required.