



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Amy Krouse
Rand McNally
9855 Woods Drive
Skokie, IL 60077
akrouse@randmcnally.com
847-329-6798

Illinois GPS Task Force Releases Report to General Assembly

The Global Positioning System Technology and Designated Truck Route System Task Force results could provide a template for other jurisdictions

Skokie, Ill., February 8, 2011 – A state task force charged with investigating the use of GPS technology as well as compliance with the Designated Truck Route System today submitted its report and eight recommendations to Illinois' Governor and General Assembly.

One of the key findings by the task force, made up of government and industry representatives, was that the state currently maintains multiple databases with critical truck-specific data that is not easily accessible by the commercial trucking industry. Such data is important to keep large trucks on approved roadways and away from hazards – such as low bridges – that can cause public safety issues.

“The Task Force has created a template from which other states can begin to assess their data and its delivery to the commercial transportation industry,” said Rep. Michael Zalewski, Task Force Chairman and state representative for the 21st district. “We believe better, more accessible data with regulatory compliance to keep the data updated will result in reduced accidents, reduced expense for repair and maintenance, and reduced congestion on local roads, all benefitting the citizens of Illinois.”

The Global Positioning System Technology and Designated Truck Route System Task Force was established last September pursuant to Public Act 96-1370. The task force was charged with considering advances in and utilization of Global Positioning System technology (GPS) related to routing information for commercial vehicles, in advance of proposed legislation regulating the use of GPS by truck drivers. The Task Force also was directed to study the

implementation and compliance with the Designated Truck Route System, Statute 625 ILCS 5/15-116.

The availability and use of truck specific information is critical for successful routing in GPS units and other technology used by commercial truck drivers.

In its exploration of the current environment, the Task Force found several challenges that make accessing and using appropriate truck-specific information difficult.

In Illinois, the information that impacts truck routing is stored in various databases belonging to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), and local agencies. Local jurisdictions oversee the regulation of truck-prohibited roads and preferred truck routes within their communities. Information is not universally present in any one database, making it cumbersome for commercial trucking drivers and firms to access the information. Having the information in various databases makes it difficult to use by the commercial trucking industry.

The Task Force's recommendations center on four key areas: merging databases together; requiring local jurisdictions to report their designated truck networks and preferred routes via a simplified reporting process; making the database more accessible to the commercial trucking industry; and educating truck drivers on the differences between GPS devices designed for trucks and those used in cars.

"We believe the Task Force's recommendations will provide a sound approach to obtaining and maintaining critical data for navigation and other uses," said John McAvoy, Director of Engineering for Rand McNally, who sat on the task force. "Reducing commercial vehicle accidents caused by lack of vital height and weight information will benefit all who share the road."

The Task Force was composed of the following members:

Craig Cassem, P.E., County Engineer, Grundy County Highway Department

Franco Coladipietro, State Representative, 45th District

David B. Johnson, Maintenance Operations Engineer, Illinois Department of Transportation

John O. Jones, State Senator, 54th District

Vydas Juskelis, Director public Works, Village of Villa Park, Illinois

John M. McAvoy, Director, Engineering, Rand McNally

Kwame Raoul, State Senator, 13th District

Don Schaefer, Executive Vice-President, Mid-West Truckers Association, Inc.

Michael Zalewski, State Representative, 21st District, Committee Chair

###

About Rand McNally – Rand McNally is the most trusted source for maps, directions, and travel content. Rand McNally's products and services include: Interactive travel service, Tripology; America's #1 Road Atlas; IntelliRoute® truck routing software and GPS devices; TruckPC mobile communication solutions for transportation; and the leading geography-based educational resources for the classroom. Consumers, businesses, truckers, and educators depend upon Rand McNally to help navigate today's world. www.RandMcNally.com

Rand McNally is a registered trademark of Rand McNally.

Follow us –

Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/randmcnally>

<http://twitter.com/randtrucking>

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/randmcnally>

Travel Blog:

<http://ontheroad.randmcnally.com>

Provide your Trucker Story at:

www.randmcnally.com/truckerstories