



DENVER CUP CLASSIC,
NOV. 26 & 27

Tickets Start at \$18
Two Games for the Price of One
ticket gets you in to both games that day!

Click here

Click Here!

AFTER YOU MAKE YOUR PICK FOR PRESIDENT

DON'T FORGET YOU'RE ONLY HALFWAY DONE

PROP 8

YES NO

Vote NO on PROP 8

UNFAIR & WRONG



RSS | Mobile Edition
Newspaper Subscriber Services

Search

Site Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

Home News Sports Living Entertainment Business Opinion Choose a Publication Help

Shopping | Classifieds | Homes | Jobs | Cars | Post Ad

del.icio.us
 Digg
 Reddit
 YahooMyWeb
 Google
 Facebook
 What's this?

Top Listings

CARS RENTALS JOBS HOMES

HAYWARD (Rentals)
Paseo Gardens 1bd's
\$920

LIVERMORE (Rentals)
Professional Dental

HAYWARD (Rentals)
2 & 3 BDRMS

HAYWARD (Rentals)
\$1400 2BD/2BA

HAYWARD (Rentals)
\$330-\$495 HAYWARD

SAN LEANDRO (Rentals)
2x1 Apt. for immediate

Hayward (Rentals)
1BD \$850, All utilities

SAN LORENZO (Rentals)
\$1,995 3BD/2BA

ALL LISTINGS

Most Viewed Most Emailed

(From the last 12 hours) RSS

1. [Re-sign and restructure; stay Raiders](#)
2. [San Bruno man founds Church of Reality](#)
3. [Oakland roofer called 'sadistic' in murder/torture trial](#)
4. [Was trade not made Wright on?](#)
5. [Teen stabbed during pickup basketball game](#)
6. [No blockbusters, just blockers](#)

Profs test tracking GPS phone to gauge traffic

By Erik N. Nelson, Staff Writer
Article Created: 02/08/2008 07:17:31 PM PST

UNION CITY -- Bay Area residents are already spoiled by the ability to call 511.org and find out how many minutes it will take them to get from Hayward to Fremont, or San Rafael to San Jose for that matter. But what if you needed to gauge the traffic going to Fresno or Lake Tahoe?

Researchers from the University of California, Berkeley, teamed up with wireless hardware maker Nokia and the state transportation department, Caltrans, dispatched 100 Berkeley students to the slings and arrows of Interstate 880 for most of Friday to develop a system that could generate real-time traffic data to nearly anywhere.

The experiment is part of Nokia's effort to "move beyond the realm of phones," said Bob Iannucci, Nokia's chief technology officer, who flew in from the company's headquarters in Finland for the event. Rather, the company is preparing customers to think of "phones as a sensor for the world that we live in."

The students drove 100 cars borrowed from Enterprise Rent-a-Car along the interstate between Hayward and Fremont while their Nokia N95 smart phones transmitted data from built-in global positioning system (GPS) devices. The data traveled through the Internet to a tent on the Lowe's hardware parking lot in Union City where research assistants peered into laptops and took phone calls from drivers who needed help or instructions.

In a few years, researchers expect that just about all phones sold in the United States will have GPS

Advertisement

technology and motorists who carry them will be able to contribute data to a traffic information system much more extensive than anything currently operating in the nation. And the best part is that it won't require expensive sensor arrays, such as the \$100,000 coils of cable Caltrans embeds in freeways every half-mile or the FasTrak electronic toll tag readers the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's 511 system uses to



North Hills Mom's \$5 Wrinkle Trick

Dermatologists DON'T want you knowing about this Skin Care Secret!



North Hills: Local Mom Makes \$77/hr Online!

currently monitor traffic congestion in the Bay Area.

The existing systems "are expensive to deploy, they are expensive to maintain and they only cover a limited area of roadway," said Alexandre Bayen, the assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering who ran the experiment.

The new phone system, like the FasTrak transponder-based system now in use, raises serious issues of privacy, said Lauren Weinstein, founder of the Woodland Hills-based Privacy Forum.

"I'm not saying you shouldn't do something like this, I'm saying people need to be informed about what's done with the data," Weinstein said, "You need to ask if its being collected and how long is it going to be archived." Some motorists have been suspicious of how they might be tracked with FasTrak tags, suspicions that were confirmed last June when records requested by MediaNews showed that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission released electronic toll payers' bridge crossing records in civil court proceedings.

""This same technology," Weinstein warned, "with nothing but a policy decision, could be used in the same way as red light cameras."

Bayen agreed that privacy is paramount, saying that the new system would scramble the actual identification numbers of cell phones and once a vehicle's progress was recorded, that bit of information would be discarded.

"From a privacy standpoint, the less information given, the better," he said. "Cell phone users will have the option to turn off the service if they don't want to use it or they don't want their data sent." Even so, Weinstein said users of the system need to be informed that a judge's order could well force the purveyors of the traffic information to alter those protections and start collecting more specific data on wireless users.

Reach Erik Nelson at enelson@bayareanewsgroup.com or 510-208-6410 and read the Capricious Commuter blog at www.InsideBayArea.com.

 [Print](#)  [Email](#)  [Return to Top](#)

Forgive Credit Card Debt

New Credit Laws Allow North Hills Consumers to Reduce Debt up to 60%...

Comments

Please keep your comments respectful of others by avoiding name-calling and other inappropriate remarks.


[FAQ: About article commenting](#)

Recent Comments

Post Your Comment

Ads by Yahoo!

<p>California Renters Insurance Coverage Obtain the insurance protection you need with an eRenterPlan insurance www.ereaterplan.com</p>	<p>CA Health Insurance Options Find The Coverage You Need For Your Business Or Family. Free Quotes. www.kbibenefits.com</p>	<p>Event Liability Coverage Event Liability Coverage Broker - Jeewanjee Agency. www.onedayevent.com</p>
---	---	---

[Home](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Place An Ad](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [Site Map](#) | [RSS](#) 



© 2000-2008 ANG Newspapers | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Help](#) | [About Bay Area News Group](#)

| [MNG Corporate Site Map](#) | [Copyright](#)