Nokia Research Center is exploring and developing new technologies, helping drive success for the Nokia Mobile Millennium project. Mobile Millennium is a Nokia project focused on reducing roadway traffic congestion to improve safety of the nation’s transportation system. This is being achieved by collecting data from GPS-enabled mobile devices — like Nokia N96, N95 and E71 — and compiling it to provide real-time information for drivers.

To support this, Nokia Research Center is collaborating with UC Berkeley’s California Center for Innovative Transportation (CCIT), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and NAVTEQ to design, execute and analyze the traffic system.

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Anyone who owns a GPS-enabled mobile phone with an unlimited data plan and the ability to install and run Java applications, can participate in the Mobile Millennium pilot. The Java application will allow the participants to receive real-time traffic data and incident reports. The pilot will operate over four to six months and up to 10,000 members of the public community can participate.
Nokia believe that by offering real-time information about traffic congestion, drivers can make more informed decisions regarding their trips.

Using GPS-enabled mobile devices offer a complementary source of traffic data which can be further expanded to include city side streets, rural roads or any roadway where a cell phone can get a signal. Above all, there is no additional investment on any other devices.

"Berkley is contributing our expertise in traffic modeling and systems engineering to help make this complex system come to life," said Alexandre Bayen, professor of civil and environmental engineering at UC Berkeley.

This new system from Nokia is partially funded by a grant award from the U.S. Department of Transportation under the SafeTrip-21 initiative. SafeTrip-21 is a multi-application field test of safety and congestion-reducing technologies.

"Real-time traffic information collected through this community-based technology is of great interest to transportation agencies," said, Randell Iwasaki, chief deputy director of Caltrans. "Our goal is to increase information flow to and from travelers in a cost-efficient, effective manner."

Don’t forget to check out TMChat’s White Paper Library, which provides a selection of in-depth information on relevant topics affecting the IP Communications industry. The library offers white papers, case studies and other documents which are free to registered users.

Jai C.S. is a contributing editor for TMChat. To read more of Jai’s articles, please visit the columnist page.

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