

## New Phone System To Help Avoid Traffic Troubles

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**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** -- The Department of Transportation has launched a new alert system designed to help drivers avoid congested roadways. Now, avoiding sitting in traffic may be as simple as picking up the phone and dialing 511.

Mike Goldman with the Department of Transportation said the new system alerts drivers of construction, accidents and congestion.

"The more information that you have, the more advance notice you have and the easier it is to relax," Goldman said.

511 can give drivers enough warning to plan accordingly.

In northeast Florida 511 only covers I-10, I-95 and I-295, but with thousands of people taking these routes Goldman expects it should help drivers substantially 24 hours a day.



"We think that this is important because of that saying, you treat people's time like they do their money," Goldman said.

Since it started, more than 11 million people statewide have called 511 and Goldman said this is just the beginning. The \$10 million project is expected to grow, give drivers more information and cut down on commute times.

"The state of the art part, when this thing develops, will tell you how long it will go from one exit to the other," Goldman said.

The 511 number is a free call, there is no fee to call, but if you call from a cellular phone you could incur a charge from the cell phone provider.

A Web site, [FL511.com](http://FL511.com), is also available to drivers, delivering all of the information available on the statewide 511 phone system, including lane closures, construction updates, severe weather alerts and evacuation information.

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